

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
 State Capitol Auditorium
 Montgomery, Alabama
 February 4, 2012

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
 Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
 No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
 at Large, at the State Capitol Auditorium,
 Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4, 2012,
 commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

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1 BOARD MEMBERS:

- 2 Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
- Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- 3 Mr. John McMillan
- Mr. Bill Hatley
- 4 Dr. Bob Shipp
- Mr. Austin Ainsworth
- 5 Dr. Warren Strickland
- Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
- 6 Mr. Grady Hartzog
- Dr. Gary Lemme
- 7 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.

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1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The February 4th, 2012,
2 meeting of the Conservation Advisory
3 Board will come to order. I would like
4 to welcome everyone to Montgomery,
5 Alabama. The board is glad that you are
6 able to be here today.

7 I'm going to depart from our agenda
8 a little bit and call on an avid hunter
9 and fisherman in the state and a very
10 dear friend. And I think all of you
11 know him very well. But for the
12 invocation I would like to call to the
13 podium Mr. Bill "Bubba" Bussey. Bill.

14 MR. BUSSEY: Thank you, sir. Could we stand,
15 take our hats off. Would that be all
16 right?

17 Y'all pray with me, please.

18 Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves
19 before your presence today, and we ask
20 that you forgive us of our many
21 shortcomings. Father, we thank you for
22 our country and our state and the
23 freedoms that we have and the rights and

1 privileges you have granted to us.

2 Father, we just ask that you
3 continue to bless our nation and our
4 state. And, Father, we ask for the
5 guidance of these elected officials and
6 these commissions as they move forward
7 in the important rules of enjoying our
8 natural resources.

9 Father, we know that the creation is
10 a gift that you meant for us and that we
11 were to subdue it and to manage it in a
12 way that was appropriate to you.

13 Father, we ask that you open the minds
14 and hearts and you give us the guidance
15 to do that correctly in a way that will
16 be pleasing to you. In the name of your
17 son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Bill, thank you very
19 much. And everybody thinks Rick gives
20 the best prayer. We know now.

21 Mr. Hatley, I think there's
22 something you wanted to add during the
23 invocation time.

1 MR. HATLEY: Yes, Commissioner -- I mean,
2 Chairman.

3 Last night in Mobile, Alabama, we
4 had a police officer who was killed in
5 the line of duty, another who was
6 wounded. I would like for us to
7 remember their families in prayer. And,
8 also, a friend of this board and of the
9 Conservation Department, Mr. Pete
10 Barber, who is also from south Alabama,
11 is in serious condition.

12 So as you go home and tonight as you
13 offer your prayers, please consider both
14 of these families as time goes forward.
15 Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

17 For the next order of business, I
18 would like to have the introduction of
19 the board members.

20 First I'm going to introduce our
21 commissioner, Mr. Gunter Guy. Gunter.

22 Secondly, I'd introduce our
23 assistant commissioner, Mr. Curtis

1 Jones. Curtis.

2 Next I'd like to introduce Alabama's
3 agriculture commissioner, Mr. John
4 McMillan. John.

5 MR. McMILLAN: Good morning.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Our other ex-officio
7 member here today is Dr. Gary Lemme from
8 the Alabama Extension Service. He
9 replaces longtime board member
10 Dr. Gaines Smith who is retiring.

11 Dr. Lemme becomes the third director
12 of the Alabama Cooperative Extension
13 Office. Dr. Lemme comes to the Alabama
14 Extension from South Dakota State
15 University where he has been most
16 recently a professor in the Department
17 of Plant Science. A soil scientist by
18 training, he is also the former dean of
19 the College of Agriculture and
20 Biological Sciences. He holds both
21 bachelor's and master's degrees from
22 South Dakota State. He completed his
23 doctoral work at the University of

1 Nebraska.

2 In addition to his tenure at South
3 Dakota University, Dr. Lemme has held a
4 variety of leadership positions at
5 several land grant institutions,
6 including Michigan State, the University
7 of Minnesota -- and I knew when I read
8 this last one he was our kind of guy --
9 at the University of Hawaii. So if
10 y'all would welcome Dr. Lemme.

11 Next I'll start at the end with
12 Mr. Dobbs. And I'd like for the
13 district members of the board to give
14 their name and what district they
15 represent.

16 Mr. Dobbs.

17 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, 6th Congressional
18 District.

19 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, the 2nd
20 Congressional District.

21 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, 5th Congressional
22 District.

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland, 5th

1 Congressional District.

2 MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, 4th

3 Congressional District.

4 DR. SHIPP: Bob Shipp, 1st Congressional

5 District.

6 MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, 1st Congressional

7 District.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And then that has the

9 board.

10 I would, also, at this time like to
11 give special recognition to outgoing
12 board member George Harbin who couldn't
13 be here today because of health reasons,
14 also special recognition -- Dr. Smith.
15 Are you here, Dr. Smith? Could you come
16 up?

17 Dr. Gaines Smith, who's retiring,
18 and a guy from the University of Hawaii
19 replacing him.

20 And, Commissioner, if you'd like to
21 present Dr. Smith from the board and all
22 game and fish for your service.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: We want to thank you so

1 much for your service over all these
2 years, and we wish you the best of luck
3 in the future. Thank you for what
4 you've done for us.

5 DR. SMITH: Thank you. You know, we in our
6 state are blessed with just an
7 unbelievable rich set of resources --
8 natural resources that we all enjoy on a
9 day-to-day basis out here. And the
10 activities of the three groups that are
11 represented here today make that
12 possible and to continue for the many,
13 many future generations. The board,
14 your advice, the professional managers
15 we've got down here and all of -- and I
16 put myself as a user with you guys and
17 ladies out here now. That's the process
18 that makes it all work and carries it
19 forward. It's my privilege to have been
20 a part of it for the last 20 or so
21 years. Thank you, both Commissioner and
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Gaines. Thank

1 you, Gaines.

2 Also, during this time I'd like to
3 give recognition again to the two new
4 board members, Dr. Gary Lemme and
5 replacing George Harbin is Mr. Austin
6 Ainsworth, who comes with a very good
7 pedigree of the game and fish industry
8 himself. So, Austin, we're glad to have
9 you on the board.

10 Thank you today for all board
11 members in attendance.

12 The next order of business is the
13 approval of the March 12th, 2011, and
14 the May 14th, 2011, minutes. The
15 minutes -- the March meeting minutes are
16 due to be approved, also, today because
17 of incomplete minutes in some of the
18 board members' packets for the May
19 meeting.

20 Are there any changes to the
21 minutes?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If not, the minutes stand

1 approved as read.

2 The next order of business is the
3 DCNR departmental reports. I'd like to
4 call on Commissioner Guy to introduce
5 each department. Commissioner Guy.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: At this time I'm going to
7 call on Fred Harders to give a report
8 for Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.
9 Fred is our acting director at this time
10 with our former director having retired,
11 Corky Pugh. So he's doing a fine job.
12 And at this time, Fred, if you would
13 give us your report.

14 MR. HARDERS: Good morning.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: Good morning.

16 MR. HARDERS: As Commissioner mentioned, Corky
17 Pugh, director, retired. In your packet
18 you have our report which goes into
19 detail.

20 We filled a few vacancies with
21 conservation officers in Barbour,
22 Marengo, Monroe, and Tuscaloosa County.
23 One important thing I'd like to point

1 out is the devastating tornadoes we had
2 in April. Our folks responded and, as
3 always, did a wonderful job.

4 There's a lot of information in the
5 report. I don't want to take up a lot
6 of time. So, if you would, if you have
7 any questions about this, you can ask
8 me. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Fred.

10 Is Chris Blankenship -- okay.

11 Chris, Marine Resources director.

12 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you, Commissioner.

13 All of y'all have been provided a
14 packet that had a lot of detailed
15 information about the activities of the
16 Marine Resources Division this past
17 year, but I do want to take an
18 opportunity just to mention a couple of
19 quick things.

20 We had some regulations that were
21 changed in legislation in the last
22 couple of years that dealt with
23 oysters. And we had a successful small

1 oyster season this year. Everything
2 looks great for the future, and I
3 appreciate all the work that you've done
4 with the regulations to make that
5 happen. In this next upcoming year and
6 years future we should have a very good
7 oyster harvest, you know, thanks to
8 these management plans.

9 The commercial fisheries are back
10 this year a little bit, and more people
11 are back fishing. And same with the
12 recreational fisheries. We sold more
13 fishing licenses this year than we've
14 ever sold in our time that we've worked
15 here. And a lot of people that because
16 of the oil spill had missed fishing, I
17 think, came back this year in droves.
18 And so it's been very good for the
19 economy down there with the tourism and
20 everything else. I just wanted -- any
21 other information that -- any questions
22 about any stuff in the packet, I'll be
23 here and be glad to answer. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: We have a new Marine Police
2 director, Steve Thompson, who, I think,
3 came in July of last year. Steve is
4 doing an outstanding job for us, and we
5 appreciate your service as our Marine
6 Police director.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner, Board
8 Members.

9 Like the Commissioner said, I'm the
10 new guy in conservation, and I'm having
11 a wonderful time. It's been an
12 eye-opening experience. And I have the
13 honor and privilege of working with some
14 fantastic individuals -- not only Marine
15 Police, but all the Conservation
16 divisions as well. I've made a lot of
17 good friends.

18 First of all, since coming to the
19 Marine Police Division -- I retired as
20 deputy chief of police in Montgomery --
21 here in Montgomery. So I'm home here in
22 Montgomery. I just want to let you know
23 we've had about four retirements, and we

1 currently have about four or five
2 recruits in our Marine Police academy at
3 this time to try and fill those
4 vacancies.

5 We have about 59 sworn officers
6 throughout the state of Alabama, and we
7 focus on recreational and boater safety
8 enforcement. And through enforcement
9 and education of our youth, which is
10 extremely important, I'm happy to say in
11 the 2011 boating season our fatalities
12 were significantly down and serious
13 accidents. So I'm extremely pleased
14 with that and continue to move forward
15 in that direction of making sure
16 everybody is safe on the water, having a
17 good time, and they can all go home at
18 the end of the day.

19 Like I said, it's an honor and
20 privilege to serve as your new director
21 of the Marine Police. And thank you.

22 I'll just keep it short.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you. Not a problem.

1 Parks. Mark -- Tim Wishum, who is,
2 also, our acting -- one of our acting
3 directors of Parks with the retirement
4 of Mark Easterwood who retired in
5 January.

6 MR. WISHUM: Thank you. I appreciate the
7 opportunity to address the board.

8 In Parks we've had a pretty good
9 year. We gave y'all our annual report
10 which had a lot of our accomplishments
11 and some problems that we've had. We
12 didn't have all our financial figures
13 in, but it's sort of a good news/bad
14 news, you know, kind of year.

15 At Gulf State Park we've had a very
16 good year at the pier and the
17 campground. Our cabins have done really
18 well.

19 At Guntersville State Park, you
20 know, we were devastated by the tornado
21 on April 27th, and we lost part of our
22 hotel roof and a couple of cabins, and
23 our campground was severely damaged.

1 But we have -- we have -- we have done
2 the final contract on the campground,
3 and there should be a few more minor
4 ones.

5 But our goal is to have all our
6 facilities at Guntersville back open by
7 Memorial Day. And it's going to be a
8 struggle, but I think it's going to be
9 pretty possible. And what we like to
10 tell people is, well, you know, there's
11 a lot of trees that are gone, but
12 there's a good view of Lake
13 Guntersville.

14 So other than that, you know, our
15 visitation was down some because of the
16 economy, but we continue to try to, you
17 know, provide good quality recreational
18 facilities and try to keep our costs as
19 low as possible, you know, for the
20 public. If there's any questions.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, sir.

22 Ms. Patti Powell with Lands.

23 MS. POWELL: Thank you, Commissioner and

1 Board. I'll keep my report very brief
2 also. I know you've got a report from
3 us in the packet. Our activities over
4 the last year were primarily our usual
5 and routine duties. I would like to
6 highlight two activities.

7 One is our ongoing work
8 administering the Forever Wild land
9 acquisition program. Over the last year
10 we added 5,000 acres spanning five
11 counties to that program providing the
12 public with additional opportunities for
13 recreational activities, hunting, and
14 other habitat management programs. We
15 continue to be very proud to be
16 associated with that program and able to
17 help with the work of that board in
18 administering that program.

19 Secondly, I would also note, because
20 it's been so time-consuming over the
21 last year, we continue our activities
22 supporting the Commissioner in his
23 duties as lead trustee for the State of

1 Alabama for the Natural Resource Damage
2 Assessment process related to the BP oil
3 spill. That's the process under the Oil
4 Pollution Act by which we are
5 responsible on behalf of the public and
6 the state for recovering the public's
7 loss of use and damage -- restoring
8 damage to the state's natural resources
9 as a result of the oil spill. That has
10 been a time-consuming function, and we
11 are continuing to work with that until
12 we get those resources and those damages
13 restored.

14 And any questions anyone has, let me
15 know. But other than that, I'll just
16 defer to the information we have in your
17 packet. Thank you. Thank you,
18 Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: If I just -- Dan, may I
20 make a little commentary.

21 You know, having now been in this
22 position for a year, I can unequivocally
23 say that the public needs to be aware

1 that we have great leadership through
2 these division directors. They do a
3 fine job of protecting the resources and
4 running the business of the Conservation
5 Department. And as who we serve, I can
6 assure you, you're in good hands with
7 the people that just spoke and the
8 people that work for them. I'm very
9 proud of what they do. They work hard.
10 They work long hours. They work -- you
11 know, whatever needs to be done, when I
12 call on them, they do it. And we try
13 our best to answer your needs as best we
14 can.

15 And as far as the board is
16 concerned, I know you call on them from
17 time to time, and hopefully y'all get
18 what you need. I think you do. Anytime
19 y'all need, you know, information about
20 a particular area that relates to, you
21 know, what they do, please feel free to
22 call them. I know they will try to
23 answer your questions and get the

1 information to you as quickly as
2 possible.

3 But, in particular, Dan, there was a
4 mention, of course, by Fred about the
5 devastating tornadoes back in April.
6 And we all know what a -- you know, how
7 greatly that affected the state and many
8 of our citizens in this state which we
9 continue to pray for and work for every
10 day. But all of our divisions, as Fred
11 Harders mentioned, were heavily involved
12 in that effort to assist the people in
13 the state of Alabama.

14 And I think that those that were
15 affected know that we were there trying
16 to help out, trying to do that. And we
17 spent a lot of time doing that. But it
18 was rewarding work, and hopefully we're
19 going to continue to get the state back
20 on track. As a result of that, the
21 Governor is working real hard to do
22 that, and we'll continue to do what we
23 can. So we appreciate everybody's

1 support in that regard.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely great. Thank
3 you, Commissioner Guy, and thank you all
4 the DCNR departments.

5 The next order of business is the
6 public hearing. When your name is
7 called, please go to the microphone and
8 give your name and subject you wish to
9 speak on. I'll remind you again that
10 only you may speak at the time you are
11 called and that any interference will
12 not be tolerated.

13 I'll take this time again at the
14 first of each year. The Conservation
15 Advisory Board has posted standing
16 rules. I'll read these real quickly.

17 After registering, the person
18 wishing to speak should go to the
19 designated microphone when called.
20 After being recognized by the Chair, the
21 person should give his/her name, city,
22 and county. The time to speak is
23 limited strictly to three minutes.

1 Where several persons wish to speak
2 on the same subject, the group should
3 choose one speaker to represent them.
4 The Chair may choose or not choose to
5 call on each person in that group or
6 from that group to speak for additional
7 information. Questions of debate from
8 Advisory Board members shall be limited
9 to ten minutes. No person shall -- may
10 speak twice until all registered
11 speakers have spoken.

12 Okay. First we'll have Ms. Chiquita
13 Baker.

14 Please speak into the microphone
15 when called.

16 MS. BAKER: I am Chiquita Baker from Franklin
17 County. And you all talked about the
18 tornado on April 27th, and the tornado
19 ripped through the heart of my little
20 community. And so it was within hours
21 we had law enforcement people there.

22 And we -- of course, we had
23 sightseers and looters and all kinds of

1 problems. My son lost his house, and he
2 had things taken from his property. But
3 within a few hours the law enforcement
4 people were there. The biologists were
5 there. And we had a Marine Police
6 command post set up in our community.
7 And they stopped people from coming into
8 our neighborhood who shouldn't have been
9 there. And they did a yeoman's job.
10 And I just wanted the board to be aware
11 of how thankful the community is to have
12 had the people in the Conservation
13 Department helping us. It was
14 wonderful.

15 And as an avid hunter, I have one
16 more thing I want to say. This is the
17 WMA schedule. And this is -- in the
18 past you've always had a spreadsheet
19 that has the dates of the hunts across
20 the top and you have the WMAs across the
21 side. And you can look at a date and
22 pick out what WMAs have hunts on that
23 certain day. Well, this year it was

1 taken out of the brochure.

2 So if I may ask -- and we like to
3 hunt -- we like to look at the day and
4 see what WMA we want to go to on that
5 day. So if it's at all possible, we
6 would like to have that information put
7 back in the brochure. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Baker.

9 The next speaker will be Rusty
10 Morrow.

11 MR. MORROW: Thank you. I appreciate the time
12 today, Mr. Moultrie, Commissioner,
13 Distinguished Board. My name is Rusty
14 Morrow. I'm executive director of the
15 Alabama Conservation Enforcement
16 Officers Association. I'm a retired
17 conservation officer from Lowndes
18 County, spent 25 years over there.

19 I would like the board to consider a
20 little extra time today. I had another
21 guy -- a supervisor out of District 1
22 who could not be here today. But I'm
23 here to recognize three individuals.

1 The first one set on this board. He
2 passed away last year, late in the
3 year. His name was Mr. Jimmy Hinton,
4 Sr. I met with his family at the
5 Buckmasters American Deer Foundation
6 Life Hunt on January the 11th and
7 told -- and over the past six years
8 since our Conservation Enforcement
9 Officers Association has been involved
10 with the Buckmasters American Deer
11 Foundation Life Hunt at Sedgefield
12 Plantation, I've gotten to know
13 Mr. Jimmy Hinton. And I expressed to
14 his family that I would like to
15 recognize Mr. Hinton at this Advisory
16 Board meeting.

17 He served on this panel for 19
18 years. Of the 19 years, he was the
19 chairman of the board for like 13 or 14
20 years. He served under five governors.
21 He was a true statesman. He believed in
22 the wildlife resource of Alabama. He
23 was a great gentleman. He -- he worked

1 hard on the same -- in the same seats
2 that you work -- you're working on
3 today. A lot of his laws -- a lot of
4 his regulations, seasons, bag limits are
5 still in effect from the time that he
6 served on this board.

7 He opens his plantation up to the
8 Life Hunt for the past 19 years for
9 handicapped hunters, terminally ill kids
10 and whatnot to come in and hunt on his
11 plantation. They make it all open to
12 them. And it's an unbelievable event.
13 It's a humbling event. And we
14 appreciate what the Hinton family has
15 done. And the loss of Mr. Hinton is
16 truly something that will be thought
17 about for a long time. And just in my
18 short time of knowing him, he -- he was
19 a true gentleman and believed in the
20 wildlife resource of this state. We'll
21 miss him.

22 The second individual I want to
23 recognize is our officer of the year,

1 Lieutenant Mike Nichols. His supervisor
2 couldn't be here today, Captain Johnny
3 Johnson out of District 1. But I had
4 the fortune of working with Mike Nichols
5 over a period of years. He is a -- and
6 since we've talked about the
7 hurricane -- tornado relief, Mike was
8 stationed in Franklin County. Being a
9 lieutenant, he was a first responder to
10 the tornado relief where there was 26, I
11 believe, deaths in that county, in north
12 Franklin County and Phil Campbell
13 alone.

14 Mike is certainly not limited to
15 that particular event. He is a true
16 leader, and he's certainly qualified for
17 our officer of the year. But because of
18 his expertise, search and rescue
19 training that the department has given
20 him, his training as a medic in the
21 military, he was able to go into that
22 community, set up -- set up control
23 stations and distribute whatever those

1 people up there needed. And it was
2 devastating.

3 And that wasn't the only reason he
4 was our conservation officer of the
5 year, but he -- he did take a major
6 part. He stayed up there for over a
7 month helping those people in a command
8 post and things like this. So we
9 recognize today Lieutenant Mike Nichols
10 from District 1.

11 The other individual I would like to
12 recognize is another conservation
13 officer, a hero. And we have many
14 heroes, and sometimes we're
15 overlooked -- our heroes in our
16 department are overlooked. But Joe
17 Lindsey was a true hero. He's been
18 recognized in several different
19 committees and legislative.

20 But Joe, on two different occasions,
21 has been considered a mystery man. He
22 goes in sometimes and -- because -- in
23 Madison County he pulled a young

1 juvenile from a burning airplane where
2 his parents were killed, and he was a
3 first responder there. And after he did
4 first aid, got the kid away from the
5 plane, he kind of disappeared. And
6 so -- and on another incident in 2008 he
7 pulled a young handicapped girl from a
8 burning van. And once the paramedics
9 got there, he kind of disappeared
10 again.

11 But Joe Lindsey from District 1 is
12 also a hero. And we recognized him last
13 year, and he's been recognized a lot for
14 his heroism. We have heroes in our
15 ranks, and oftentimes they go
16 unnoticed.

17 But we had a lot of heroes during
18 Katrina. We had heroes during the
19 tornado devastation. And we -- we do
20 the best -- the best job that anybody
21 can do, and we're oftentimes
22 overlooked.

23 So thank you for your time. We

1 appreciate you. Glad to see Mr. Hatley
2 back. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Morrow.

4 Our next speaker will be Mr. Avery
5 Bates.

6 We're sorry to be so rushed today,
7 but we have a long list today, guys and
8 ladies.

9 MR. BATES: I would say I'm just too big, but
10 I'm four foot too short.

11 My name is Avery Bates. I'm
12 vice-president of Organized Seafood
13 Association. We've had many trials and
14 tribulations in our business over the
15 years.

16 First of all, I want to thank the
17 board last year for not taking some of
18 our liberties away from us. You know,
19 our forefathers fought for our liberties
20 under our constitution and our state
21 constitution. One liberty that tried to
22 be taken away that y'all preserved and
23 didn't allow it was gamefish status in

1 three species of fish. One of them was
2 Spanish mackerel, sheepshead, and
3 pompano. And this property that we take
4 from the waters belongs to everybody in
5 this state. In fact -- what did we see,
6 Chauncey -- 700-and-something firemen
7 that worked in many rescues we fed.
8 Many different people -- we fed
9 Buckmasters, 400-and-something people.
10 We fed the tornado victims for two
11 weeks. We fed another 300 in this
12 tornado disaster my son was in.

13 We feed people with the products
14 from the sea. We're farmers of the
15 sea. Thank God for our constitution. I
16 know everybody on this board -- I don't
17 think (inaudible) -- but we have our
18 liberties to defend. Many of our people
19 on this board defended them last year.
20 And we want to keep y'all defending our
21 liberties to take our fish, all
22 species. It's according to Law
23 9-2-80.

1 All saltwater fish belong to all the
2 people of the state, not just one user
3 group. We don't want somebody to try to
4 exercise, on Article 1, Section 23, the
5 eminent domain on one particular
6 species. It belongs to everybody. Let
7 us keep fishing. Let us keep
8 oystering. Let us keep producing what
9 everybody enjoys, good healthy seafood.

10 Keep in mind, now, we have -- as
11 according to the Sea Grant group, we
12 have 9,750 people who work in our
13 commercial seafood industry, 4,719
14 recreational who work in our seafood
15 industry. This is according to Governor
16 Bentley, who is a fine Christian
17 governor.

18 And I want to lay one thing to our
19 credit of the Conservation Department.
20 We have a man right here, that's a fine
21 Christian man, who's head over our
22 seafood director, Chris Blankenship,
23 that has stood up for us in the past and

1 just speaks the truth as far as
2 qualities of stock. And there's also
3 the new commissioner. He believes in a
4 good healthy resource and a good healthy
5 department defending that resource and
6 defending our products for everybody.
7 Thank you, Commissioner Guy, for all you
8 do for us. I know it's a big
9 responsibility being a trustee.

10 And we want our oyster reefs -- like
11 Mississippi wants theirs and Louisiana
12 wants theirs, we want them built back.
13 30,000 sacks of oysters come out of
14 Heron Bay in just a very few weeks.

15 MS. JONES: Mr. Bates --

16 MR. BATES: Some of the best oysters in the
17 country.

18 MS. JONES: Mr. Bates, that's time.

19 MR. BATES: Thank you.

20 Do you have any questions? I'll be
21 willing to answer them. We've got many
22 other reports here. Some of the board
23 asked me some reports on stats. I have

1 them by the bunches.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Bates, we certainly
3 appreciate your time today. Thank you.

4 MR. BATES: Thank you, Mr. Moultrie.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is
6 Sidney Schwartz.

7 While we're waiting on the speaker,
8 I'd like to remind the board, all the
9 changes to the DCNR regs, regulations,
10 limits, et cetera, are in your packets.
11 That will be reviewed and voted on a
12 motion for the next meeting. Please
13 review those.

14 Mr. Schwartz.

15 MR. SCHWARTZ: Sidney Schwartz. Mobile
16 County. I live in Mobile city. My
17 topic is shrimp season openings.

18 I've been shrimping since I was a
19 little kid. Learned from my
20 grandfather, my father. I did it. My
21 son does it. My grandson does it. We
22 have four generations shrimping right
23 now on my boat.

1 In the past 20 years probably three
2 times it's happened. The season was
3 opened quick. People was left out. I
4 think we need 72 hours notice before
5 shrimp season is opened.

6 I expressed this to Mr. Chris
7 Blankenship. And I think he's a good
8 man for the job. That was the right
9 decision. I endorse it. And I
10 understand that last year's opening, it
11 had to be done because of the floods,
12 another opening for the oil spill. You
13 know, natural disasters, that's
14 understandable. But in other cases, we
15 need 72 hours notice so some of the
16 fishermen isn't left out.

17 I was left out last year. I missed
18 quite a bit of money because I couldn't
19 go to the season. I wasn't ready for
20 it. So if y'all would take that into
21 consideration, I'd appreciate it.

22 Any questions?

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have one question,

1 Mr. Schwartz.

2 MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I don't know if you've
4 noticed, but the hunter orange that goes
5 into play in game and fish -- and I see
6 your hat. I have a different hat. If
7 you need to wear that, then we'll offer
8 you that. But I guess we need to give
9 kudos to your university. But thank you
10 so much, but notice the hunter orange.
11 It goes well with blue.

12 MR. SCHWARTZ: Oh, okay. I'll take that into
13 consideration.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Schwartz.

15 MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is
17 Jeb Brantley. Is Mr. Brantley present?
18 Mr. Brantley.

19 MR. BRANTLEY: My name is Jeb Brantley. I'm
20 from Montgomery County. I live in the
21 city of Montgomery. The topic I'm
22 bringing up today is an issue we've
23 actually been having at the Gulf State

1 Pier in Gulf Shores. We have an issue
2 right now with the disposal of the
3 carcasses of the fish caught and
4 cleaning on site.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the mic,
6 please, Mr. Brantley.

7 MR. BRANTLEY: We're having an issue with the
8 disposal of the carcasses of the fish
9 being caught and cleaned on site. And
10 the issue I see with it is we're not
11 allowed to dispose of the fish on site
12 and we're also not allowed to dispose of
13 them within the receptacles provided to
14 us at the facility. We've actually been
15 told by the park director down there
16 that we are to dispose of the remains of
17 the fish in the trash cans provided to
18 us.

19 Well, the way I see it is, is what
20 you're going to end up with is a pier
21 that is there for everybody's enjoyment
22 that smells like somebody has dumped a
23 dead body on it. I've left fish in my

1 garbage can down there before, and it's
2 not a nice smell after a few hours. But
3 I can only imagine what it's going to
4 smell like after a few days, because
5 there's limited resources on the people
6 that actually work down there and who
7 provide services to empty the garbage
8 cans. They sometimes can only get to
9 them once every other day.

10 Well, I can see if you get a good
11 strong north wind or a good strong south
12 wind and everybody who's in the parking
13 lot wanting to walk out on the pier and
14 they smell the stench coming from the
15 garbage cans. They're not going to want
16 to walk out on the pier. They're not
17 going to want to enjoy the facilities.

18 And the other thing I see is, is
19 that it provides -- it actually hinders
20 people coming down and fishing because
21 they have to clean the fish at where
22 they're staying. And a lot of people
23 don't have places to clean. If they

1 stay at hotels and motels, they're not
2 provided with freezers or cleaning
3 stations at those particular locations
4 to process their own fish and to store
5 it. And so what you end up with is an
6 issue there because you're going to have
7 garbage cans and dumpsters all over the
8 city that smell like death.

9 That's all I have to cover on the
10 topic, and that's my view of it.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let me interrupt just a
12 minute. We've got Tim Wishum. We've
13 been working on that.

14 Tim, would you like to comment on
15 that?

16 MR. WISHUM: Well, it's an ongoing-type
17 problem.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come up to the microphone
19 if you can.

20 MR. WISHUM: We've been working, you know,
21 with our engineering section, for one
22 thing, to move our fish-cleaning
23 stations to the parking lot for the pier

1 customers and for anyone else in Gulf
2 Shores that, you know, wishes to clean
3 fish. And we're trying to, you know, do
4 that so that we can dispose of the fish
5 and then, if possible, find someone to
6 recycle, you know.

7 MR. BRANTLEY: Well, with the recycling issue
8 is that if you've ever been to any of
9 the marinas, Zeke's or Sportman's, down
10 there and you've been there on a good
11 warm summer day, what you're going to
12 end up with is a cesspool basically.
13 The marina -- when you go down to Zeke's
14 in July, you can't go within 30 feet of
15 the dumpster down there. It absolutely
16 reeks. And it's right next to a
17 restaurant. I mean, at the pier
18 that's -- that's --

19 MR. WISHUM: Well, an odor problem, you know,
20 we've been addressing in our campground,
21 which is a 500-site campground. And if
22 you pull in there, there's a
23 fish-cleaning station and there's

1 anywhere from eight to 12 dumpsters.
2 It's something if you stay on top of it
3 and you keep them dumped and you keep
4 them sprayed.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Brantley.
6 Commissioner.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: I was just going to say, I
8 think the thing that we wanted you to
9 know was we're working on that.

10 MR. WISHUM: We're working on that.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you, Tim.

12 And we're trying to address that.
13 You know, when the pier was built, there
14 was a plan in place. As many plans
15 sometimes don't work, it didn't work.
16 Had difficulty with people misusing or
17 abusing what we had. So now we're
18 having to try to figure out something
19 else to do. We're keenly aware of
20 that. And I know that you had a
21 comment.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is this Dr. Shipp or
23 Mr. Hatley?

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hatley.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley.

3 MR. HATLEY: I had talked with Jim Egbert. I
4 think Jim is here today. And I had also
5 talked with staff in reference to this.
6 This was going to be part of my report
7 today.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

9 MR. HATLEY: And I had assured Jim and I'm
10 assuring you that our staff is going to
11 rectify this problem at some point. And
12 as Commissioner said, we are working on
13 it.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Brantley, thank you
15 very much.

16 MR. BRANTLEY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
18 Glen Bryant.

19 MR. BRYANT: My name is Glen Bryant. I'm here
20 representing Pete Barber with the
21 Alabama Seafood Association.

22 As you heard, he's very, very sick,
23 very critical. If there is any

1 gillnet-related regulations, I would ask
2 that they be tabled till my people can
3 regroup and maybe Pete gets better.
4 That's all I've got to say.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,
6 Mr. Bryant.

7 The next speaker will be Zack
8 Carter.

9 MR. CARTER: Hello, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm
10 wearing the correct colors on my hat.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You are absolutely
12 appropriate.

13 MR. CARTER: Good morning. My name is Zack
14 Carter, and I'm an interim board member
15 of the newly formed Alabama Fisheries
16 Cooperative in Coden, Alabama. And I
17 would like to -- there's a couple of
18 things that I learned at a public
19 meeting two days ago in Bayou La Batre
20 that I'm concerned about.

21 I would like to ask the Commissioner
22 and Doctor, too, if they could
23 reconsider putting the projects of

1 restoring the oyster reefs back into
2 round one of the NRDA funding. And, I
3 mean, we've had conversations with Patti
4 and others, and we've been reassured
5 that probably next round that the
6 restoration projects will be included.
7 But the problem is that -- you know, the
8 point was raised that Louisiana and
9 Mississippi wants theirs. Well, they
10 got theirs. And that's my
11 understanding, that they are spending
12 millions to restore their oyster reefs.
13 And so we will be a year behind. And
14 Alabama oyster catchers, whenever they
15 have to go to Louisiana or Mississippi,
16 they catch hell.

17 So I'm hoping that maybe we could
18 meet and try to understand exactly what
19 is the process, why, you know, these
20 projects were not included in the first
21 round. And so I'll stop there, and then
22 maybe we can get some explanation.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

1 Commissioner.

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: The NRDA process is very
3 complicated. It's very technical. And
4 I assure you that we look at all the
5 projects. And I've talked to a number
6 of people about this, and we've had
7 public hearings down in Mobile and Gulf
8 Shores about our projects. We're very
9 cognizant of the interest in the oyster
10 reefs. And that's about all I can say
11 at this time. Thank you for your
12 comments though.

13 MR. CARTER: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Carter.

15 The next speaker will be Jim Egbert.

16 MR. EGBERT: Good morning. Thanks for this
17 opportunity. My name is Jim Egbert from
18 Gulf Shores. I am assistant manager of
19 reservations, Gulf Shores
20 Plantation/Mandoki Hospitality. My
21 issue is, again, with the same
22 regulations that were spoken about
23 earlier.

1 These regulations which were
2 originally partly intended to apply to
3 commercial operation shrimpers/net
4 fishermen have now been combined to
5 include the individual. So we now face
6 the same burden as an individual who has
7 a shrimp boat if we're fishing on the
8 beach for whiting. We can't dispose of
9 that half-cup of shrimp into the Gulf
10 without taking it three miles out. If
11 we're fishing in the bay for trout,
12 flounder, the same thing applies. We
13 have to take it 500 feet away from the
14 beach to put it into the bay or harbor.
15 The bay or harbor comes from the Clean
16 Water Act, the verbiage.

17 I have given a formal petition to
18 rework paragraphs 7 and 8 of 220-4 --
19 I'm sorry -- -3.04 asking that the
20 language be changed back to where it was
21 originally intended. You have
22 provisions in inland waters bringing up
23 carcasses 500 feet from the beach.

1 Our cleaning stations on the pier are
2 over 500 feet away. You have provisions
3 allowing for shark fishermen where he
4 can dump his chum within 300 feet of the
5 water, but for some reason now if you're
6 fishing from the beach for whiting you
7 have to take your bycatch three miles
8 out.

9 We ask you to have every
10 consideration of the proposal in front
11 of you, the petition, and we look
12 forward to your answer on that.

13 This is basically what we're
14 required to do. If you have anything
15 left over, you got to carry it around
16 because you can't dispose of it at my
17 condo. You can't dispose of it at the
18 pier. Even if the proposal is adopted
19 to move them down and provide
20 containers, the law states you cannot
21 dispose of fish carcasses into refuse
22 containers. So we ask you for your
23 consideration on making those changes.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

3 Mr. Blankenship, do you have any
4 comment at this time on that?

5 MR. BLANKENSHIP: The only comment I have is
6 that, you know, Tim Wishum and I are
7 working together to come up with a
8 win-win solution for this for the
9 long-term. In the short-term we have
10 addressed that on the pier. Tim has
11 addressed that with their people. And,
12 I mean, it is -- as we have more people
13 that return to the coast to fish, it's
14 an issue that has to be dealt with not
15 only at the pier, but at the boat ramps,
16 at the condominiums and other places.
17 And we're trying to find solutions to
18 that whereby we can -- these carcasses
19 can be used for fertilizer and working
20 with the Alabama and Auburn -- with the
21 Auburn Sea Grant Extension to come up
22 with some solutions. And so it is in
23 the forefront of things that we're

1 working on.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,
3 Mr. Blankenship. Thank you, Mr. Egbert.

4 MR. EGBERT: We do appreciate the efforts of
5 both the department and division. It
6 creates a catch-22 for the Code stating
7 one thing. It's like the Parks saying
8 it's okay to drive 70 miles through the
9 state parks when the Code says it's only
10 35. And that's the issue that we have
11 right now. So we ask for consideration
12 in rewriting.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Egbert.

14 MR. EGBERT: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Robert
16 Miller, Jr.

17 MR. MILLER: My name is Bob Miller. I live in
18 Gulf Shores, Alabama, Baldwin County,
19 and guess what I want to talk about.
20 The pier. I've kind of got -- some of
21 this has already been covered, I know,
22 and -- but just since I drove all the
23 way up here, I'm going to say it

1 anyway.

2 This is also about 220-3.7 and 8. I
3 would like to say that maybe in a
4 temporary situation -- since the pier
5 opened in '09, we were not only invited
6 to and we were applauded for throwing
7 our remains of fish carcasses and such
8 into the Gulf of Mexico. And one of the
9 first questions I asked was at the pier
10 house, what about washing up on the
11 beach. And this was a year after the
12 pier started up when we started talking
13 about this. And there had been no
14 complaints at the pier about carcasses
15 washing up on the beach. And I had
16 personally seen them, that what the
17 birds don't get, the crab and the fish
18 and the toothy critters get.

19 So it really creates a problem for
20 folks out of town. I can take them home
21 and put them in my neighbor's garbage
22 can, so I don't have to worry about it.
23 But if I'm down there -- if I come down

1 from Arkansas -- and you'll find in your
2 packet there's a letter from a guy in
3 Arkansas. He drove around with it in
4 his car hunting a place to get rid of
5 it. And he feels like a criminal by
6 catching -- paying to catch fish on our
7 pier, on a beautiful facility, and then
8 he has to act like a criminal to get rid
9 of it. Because he can't get rid of them
10 at his condo or his rental property.
11 You can't put them in the trash can. I
12 know we've got an exception to that, but
13 that's going to be unbelievably bad.
14 And we've been told by the pier in the
15 past to throw them overboard and then we
16 were told put them in the garbage can.
17 Then we were told no. Then they moved
18 the garbage cans and took them away.
19 And it depends on who you talk to what
20 story you get about what's legal.

21 Can you clean your fish on the pier
22 and take home only the filet, or can you
23 clean your fish on the pier, take

1 everything home? It depends on who
2 stops you in the parking lot wearing a
3 uniform as to what the -- people have
4 been given warning tickets for
5 littering -- not -- well, I think it was
6 for littering, actually. It's in your
7 packet that you got for the formal
8 request from Jim -- the letter is.

9 But it's just a sticky situation. I
10 would love to see in the interim an
11 exception to the three-mile rule,
12 because they're not washing up on the
13 deck -- on the beach. And it's nowhere
14 near the volume of one shrimp boat.
15 Because we don't all catch. A lot of us
16 go out there just to enjoy that
17 beautiful facility we have on Gulf
18 Shores. And it's really a deterrent to
19 the people that want to come down to the
20 beach and fish just for enjoyment. It's
21 not like we're harvesting tons of fish.
22 I know I'm not hurting the population,
23 even though I spend days -- several days

1 a week out there and spend my money.

2 MS. JONES: Mr. Miller, time.

3 MR. MILLER: Okay. And I thank you very much
4 for considering this issue.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

6 MR. MILLER: Any other --

7 MR. HATLEY: Mr. Miller, the guy from
8 Arkansas --

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hatley, if you'll
10 address the Chair, please, sir.

11 MR. HATLEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Do you have a question for
13 Mr. Miller?

14 MR. HATLEY: I have a point, I guess.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please make it.

16 MR. HATLEY: The guy from Arkansas,
17 Mr. Miller, I think he brought that out
18 to Cotton Creek and put it in a dumpster
19 next to my house.

20 MR. MILLER: He said it was the only one he
21 could find that wasn't locked. Please
22 help us out.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

1 Mr. Hatley, that was probably a
2 strange smell of smelling fish at your
3 house because I know your fishing
4 ability.

5 The next speaker is Adam Morck.

6 MR. MORCK: Thank you very much. And I'm Adam
7 Morck. I'm from Foley, Alabama, Baldwin
8 County. I'm strategic accounts director
9 for ABM. We handle environmental
10 services across the nation. My concern,
11 obviously, is one of the items that has
12 been a hot topic today. And I, also,
13 would like to address the same
14 miscellaneous and public access
15 regulation in Chapter 220-3, paragraphs
16 7 and 8, in regards to our pier.

17 Now, I know a lot of this has
18 already been covered. My concern
19 possibly is maybe looking for a way to
20 find a solution to some of these
21 issues. And I know that that is
22 obviously an item of great interest.

23 Our main concern, obviously, is

1 tourism. We want to find tourists. And
2 let's face it. The pier is one of the
3 greatest attractions we have in the
4 Gulf. And in dealing with such, they
5 are getting to the point where the
6 condos are not allowing them to dispose
7 of these fish. The agencies that rent
8 these things out and people are coming
9 down that are spending their money, it
10 gets to that point where they start
11 going elsewhere.

12 I have two friends already that were
13 given warnings by the people on the
14 pier, and the next thing you know, hey,
15 we're going to Pensacola this time,
16 we're going to Panama City. And with
17 them living in Atlanta and Arkansas and
18 Kansas and different places, it's not
19 any different for them to just travel an
20 extra hour. And we lose that revenue.
21 That's county revenue we lose. That's
22 state revenue. And that goes toward
23 helping our things on a local level.

1 One of the issues that we have with
2 putting it on the ground is animals,
3 pests, insects, and the smell.
4 Obviously, these things will be
5 attracted to such a thing. If we keep
6 the organic material going back into the
7 Gulf by someday, perhaps a grinder with
8 maybe a two-part system, maybe a
9 diamond-cut grinder that could emulsify
10 it down to a place where it can
11 decompose in the water, that could be an
12 option as well.

13 Now, the question is who's going to
14 fund that wonderful invention. But
15 there's always other alternatives. And
16 that's what we're looking for.
17 Obviously, we want to work through this
18 and come to some type of agreement.

19 And, as he said, if we could get the
20 verbiage where it distinguishes the
21 difference between commercial fisherman
22 and recreational fisherman to the point
23 where these regulations are in

1 accordance with reality, then we can
2 come to an agreement and everyone could
3 be happy, especially our tourists that
4 are coming down and supporting our area
5 during the summer months primarily. And
6 that is all I have this morning.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Morck, clarify for the
8 board, what is your company's policy on
9 such issues on that? Do y'all have
10 policy within your company on that?

11 MR. MORCK: As far as waste management?

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. As far as like the
13 fish carcasses.

14 MR. MORCK: We simply remove the items from --
15 from the areas. It's not a matter of
16 having a policy. It's --

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So y'all don't have any
18 policy what goes in those dumpsters?

19 MR. MORCK: No. We remove it from the
20 dumpsters.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. So you take it
22 out. They're not your dumpsters?

23 MR. MORCK: Right.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: So you're just the removal
2 company. So the board -- because I'm
3 not clear. I want the board to be clear
4 on what you're lobbying for.

5 MR. MORCK: Right. And we deal with it on a
6 daily basis where we see the worst of
7 the worst. And I have seen some
8 extremely nasty environments in my
9 work. And it's something that we
10 certainly don't want somebody to open up
11 a dumpster or a can and a raccoon or
12 something jump out and attack them. And
13 we've actually seen animals, you know,
14 run out and attack, you know, stray cats
15 and hyenas and all kinds of different
16 things across the nation. So we --

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hyenas. Mr. Morck, this
18 board is pretty aware of the game. I
19 mean, you're going to say mountain lions
20 next.

21 Mr. Morck, I've got one more
22 question. After you remove this
23 material, what happens to that material

1 then? Where does it go?

2 MR. MORCK: It's generally taken to a compost
3 or it's broken down, you know, wherever
4 the waste management company that we
5 hire carries it to in their facility.
6 We subcontract a lot of that out.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Very good. Does
8 the board have any other questions?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,
11 Mr. Morck.

12 Okay. The next speaker will be
13 Charles Winkler.

14 DR. WINKLER: Thank you. I'm Fred Winkler,
15 Dr. Fred Winkler. I'm a retired biology
16 instructor for the two-year college in
17 Andalusia. What I'd like to talk to you
18 about this morning is the harvesting of
19 freshwater turtles in Covington County
20 for commercial use.

21 This particular episode that I came
22 upon was this past September. A friend
23 and I, we like to go out on the Conecuh

1 River when the water is low and collect
2 fossils. And we were down on the
3 Conecuh there this late September
4 afternoon, and a fellow pulled up in a
5 van. He had three kayaks on the top of
6 the van, and there were three people in
7 the van. And he got out, and I soon --
8 I got to talking to him a little bit,
9 and I asked him what he was doing. He
10 said he was down here to -- I asked him,
11 are you down here kayaking? He said,
12 no, I'm down here to collect turtles. I
13 said, collect turtles, shame on you.
14 What are you doing that for?

15 He said, a fellow's got to make a
16 living and this is what I do. I come up
17 here in Alabama. It's easy to get a
18 permit to collect turtles. They've
19 outlawed it in Florida. So it's easy to
20 come up here and that's the way I make
21 my living. He said, where I live in
22 Florida, in my backyard I have over 500
23 turtles that I've collected, and I sell

1 them to Japan and China and different
2 places where the market is good, and
3 it's been a very good, profitable
4 business for me over the years.

5 And so, anyway, this kind of
6 bothered me. So the next day I called
7 up the Conservation Department and asked
8 to speak to someone in the law
9 enforcement area. And I talked to a
10 captain there, and I told him that I had
11 gotten the tag number of the car and the
12 description of the vehicle and the --
13 description of the van and so on, would
14 he try to trace it down and see if
15 it's -- where he's from. And he did and
16 he traced the tag down. It was from
17 central Florida. And, sure enough, he
18 checked the permit too. He had a permit
19 to collect turtles in Alabama. In fact,
20 he had two permits, one for himself and
21 one for his son. And about the other
22 party, I don't know whether they were
23 from -- had a permit or not.

1 But Covington County has an
2 abundance of water -- there's about five
3 different streams and rivers that go
4 through there. And I don't believe that
5 anybody can permit and check an
6 individual to what type of turtles
7 they're collecting. I don't think the
8 conservation officers have been trained
9 to identify the different turtles and
10 know which ones that they can collect
11 and which ones they can't collect. And
12 I would like to recommend that they do
13 some type in-service education for the
14 conservation officers and, also, to look
15 at Florida's laws on stopping the
16 collecting and commercial --

17 MS. JONES: Dr. Winkler, time.

18 DR. WINKLER: -- use in Covington County and
19 Alabama. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

21 Mr. Winkler and the next two other
22 speakers, I'm going to get Stan Cook to
23 comment after -- y'all are all three on

1 the same subject, so --

2 COMMISSIONER GUY: Or Fred.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Or Fred, whoever.

4 All right. The next speaker will be
5 Craig Guyer.

6 MR. GUYER: I'm Craig Guyer from Lee County,
7 Auburn. I'm a professor in biological
8 sciences at Auburn University, and I'm
9 here to talk on the very same issue
10 about turtle regulation.

11 For 25 years my grad students and I
12 have done population studies of the
13 turtles in our state. This is a very
14 rich and diverse state from a turtle
15 perspective. And I'm here to encourage
16 you to see if we can't get ahead of an
17 issue that does seem to be emerging in
18 this state relative to regulating our
19 turtle populations.

20 All of the research that I know of
21 and that has emerged from my lab tells
22 us that the single worst thing you can
23 do for a turtle population is to allow

1 the big oldest reproductive individuals
2 to disappear, and that is the group of
3 turtles that is being valued in foreign
4 market, largely the Asian foreign
5 market. And there's a very small number
6 of folks who are harvesting those
7 turtles for this purpose.

8 So if we're to retain those in our
9 state's fauna, it is my professional
10 opinion that we do need to get out ahead
11 of this issue. All of our local states
12 have contacted me about the wisdom of a
13 total ban on turtle for commercial
14 purposes, and it's my professional
15 opinion that that's what we need to do
16 if we're going to maintain our turtle
17 populations. And I would like to see us
18 open the discussion of seeing whether we
19 are going to join with what I believe to
20 be the direction that our neighboring
21 states are going, which is to ban this
22 until we can understand how to maintain
23 that resource.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Guyer, I believe we'll
2 have several questions.

3 Commissioner McMillan.

4 MR. McMILLAN: Yes. Two things. How do they
5 ship them and what do they do with
6 them?

7 MR. GUYER: I've never seen the shippers. All
8 I've seen is pictures of them. But it's
9 generally large, big wooden crates, and
10 they toss them in there by the
11 hundreds.

12 MR. McMILLAN: For what use?

13 MR. GUYER: Some of it is medicinal purposes.
14 The spleen is thought to be an
15 aphrodisiac in some cultures. And it's
16 being used for food meat, but largely
17 for very small bits of the turtle and
18 then the rest of it is discarded.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Commissioner McMillan, in
20 y'all's department is there a commercial
21 turtle operation, or do y'all handle
22 that?

23 MR. McMILLAN: No. We leave it to the

1 experts.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I figured you would.

3 Any other questions?

4 (No response.)

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you,

6 sir.

7 The next speaker is Jim Godwin.

8 MR. GODWIN: Yes. I'm Jim Godwin. I'm with
9 Auburn University. I'm a zoologist
10 there. One of my areas of expertise is
11 the southeastern turtles. I've been in
12 Alabama -- for about the past 15 years
13 I've been in Alabama studying the
14 turtles, and this issue of regulating
15 the commercial harvest is one that's
16 growing. It's going to be a problem if
17 it's not addressed. It's going to be a
18 problem in Alabama as is being pointed
19 out. Adjacent states have tightened up
20 their regulations, and if we don't do
21 something, we're going to see a real
22 decline in the turtle numbers that we
23 have here in Alabama.

1 There are two important -- globally
2 two important areas in the world for
3 turtles. One is southeast Asia. The
4 other is the southeastern United
5 States. Alabama is in the middle of
6 this incredible turtle diversity. We
7 have more turtles in Alabama than any
8 other place in North America and in many
9 places in South America.

10 The turtles are harvested. They're
11 sent to Asia for food. The Asians
12 have -- they eat many species. They've,
13 in fact, driven many of their native
14 species to the brink of extinction. The
15 other area where the turtles are used is
16 in Europe where it goes -- they go into
17 the pet trade.

18 Thousands of these turtles leave the
19 United States every year. And so as
20 it's been pointed out, Georgia, Florida
21 have tightened up their regulations.
22 And so the commercial harvesters will be
23 looking to places like Alabama where

1 there's more freedom to come in and take
2 what they want.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Godwin, I've got a
4 quick question. I know the board may.

5 I've seen an awful lot of publicity
6 in the Everglades that the boas have
7 wiped out the turtles down there. Do
8 you go along with that?

9 MR. GODWIN: I don't know if they've wiped out
10 the turtles. They're affecting most of
11 the other fauna in the Everglades, yes,
12 the mammals, the birds, taken some
13 alligators.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: A very good reason this
15 board watches the exotic pets like we
16 do.

17 Dr. Strickland.

18 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, can I address
19 the speaker?

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, absolutely.

21 DR. STRICKLAND: Jim, could you give us a
22 little bit of insight with regards to
23 the life cycle of the turtle?

1 MR. GODWIN: The life cycle, yes. Thank you
2 for that question, yes.

3 Yeah. The reason that the turtles
4 cannot sustain this commercial harvest
5 is that they're long-lived. You know,
6 so you've got turtles that can live 40
7 or 50 years. Well, they lay a lot of
8 eggs. All right. But there's a high
9 mortality of eggs. In fact, it's not
10 uncommon that in nesting beaches you can
11 find, you know, turtles nesting there
12 over -- from the spring to the summer.
13 And up to 90 percent of those eggs are
14 lost to predators. Even if the turtle
15 hatches, then for the first few years
16 that little turtle is still susceptible
17 to predation. So it takes these turtles
18 four or five years before they reach the
19 point where they're free from this
20 predation pressure.

21 Well, the females -- so then the
22 females are the really critical age
23 class within the turtles. And so it may

1 take them eight or ten or 12 years to
2 reach maturity before they then can
3 begin reproducing. Well, so then
4 they've got this long time span where
5 they're laying eggs with, you know, sort
6 of the hope that they can just hatch off
7 a few individuals to come back into the
8 population to replace themselves and to
9 add to their population. So we pull out
10 these females and we're removing the
11 most critical age class from the
12 population. And so, you know, the
13 females tend to be larger. They've got
14 more meat. They're more desirable from
15 a commercial standpoint.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: So I guess this underscores
17 how delicate the life cycle in removing
18 the females and the older adults, which
19 sounds like the ones that the commercial
20 turtle harvesters are looking for, can
21 have a pretty detrimental impact fairly
22 quickly and it would take years to
23 recover.

1 MR. GODWIN: Yes, it can. Yes. Along with
2 all the other pressures that are out
3 there for them.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Dobbs, I believe you
5 have a question.

6 MR. DOBBS: Chairman Moultrie, thank you very
7 much.

8 What species of turtles are they
9 targeting? Multiple species? And what
10 species of turtles that we have here in
11 Alabama -- don't we have some that are
12 protected?

13 MR. GODWIN: We do have ones that are
14 protected. The ones that tend to be
15 targeted for food are the soft shells,
16 the snapping turtles. We've got two
17 species of snapping turtles in the
18 state. We've got the common snapping
19 turtle, which is -- I don't believe it
20 has any real protection. Then there's
21 the alligator snapping turtle which is
22 state protected. We have map turtles
23 which are state protected. We've got a

1 few other ones that have -- we have a
2 couple that have federal protection and
3 a few others with state protection.

4 MR. DOBBS: Again, which ones do you think
5 that they're targeting, that these
6 fellows are harvesting and shipping?

7 MR. GODWIN: I think that they would be
8 targeting soft-shell turtles, snapping
9 turtles, probably cooters, which are
10 these big basking turtles you see in the
11 rivers and lakes, red-eared turtles.
12 Those would be the most common ones.
13 And then I know with what Dr. Winkler
14 said, I believe what he encountered
15 were -- was a harvester that was taking
16 musk turtles, which are actually very
17 small turtles, but they're desirable for
18 the pet trade.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody, did you have
20 comments?

21 MR. GODWIN: Thank you very much.

22 MR. MOODY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is
23 on our radar screen. It's something

1 that we feel very strongly that we are
2 going to have to address in some form or
3 fashion. We had a pretty good
4 discussion within the law enforcement
5 and wildlife sections within the last
6 month to discuss this issue and to look
7 at it. Apparently, the food and pet
8 trade in Asia and Europe are growing,
9 and, you know, it's something that most
10 of us aren't aware of. We don't see it
11 until somebody brings it to our
12 attention.

13 We are very fortunate that Dr. Guyer
14 and Mr. Godwin are very knowledgeable
15 herpetologists and we have their
16 expertise to draw on. There's not that
17 many people that are studying turtles.
18 But Mark Sasser on our staff has done a
19 good job of pulling together information
20 from other states and looking at what
21 they are doing and trying to give us
22 some thoughts and recommendations on how
23 we need to react and be prepared to come

1 before you with some kind of
2 recommendation.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Please let us
4 know what we can do with that. I know
5 in the past couple of years we've
6 learned that the northern states were
7 coming down and getting our big catfish,
8 and now people are getting our turtles.
9 So we've got to watch all of it. And
10 y'all do an excellent job at that.

11 Any other comments from the board?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is
14 Rush Meriwether.

15 Oh, Dr. Strickland.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, you
17 know, I really see this as a potential
18 very serious issue, as Dr. Guyer and
19 Dr. Godwin brought forth to the board.
20 And, you know, we really -- I think this
21 is something that we really need to act
22 on pretty quickly, you know.

23 And I see that you have a task force

1 in place, but I would certainly like for
2 you all, Gary, to bring some information
3 back to the board on where we are and
4 what we're going to do to try to bring a
5 halt to the problem.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yeah. And especially with
7 us discussing it here, we can pass that
8 to you at the next meeting.

9 Very good. The next speaker is
10 Mr. Rush Meriwether.

11 MR. MERIWETHER: Good morning. My name is
12 Rush Meriwether. I live in Mathews,
13 Alabama. I'm here to speak about dove
14 hunting, particularly the setting of the
15 seasons.

16 My concern is that the season is
17 opening too early for the following
18 reasons: It's too hot. There's plenty
19 of snakes out. There's plenty of
20 mosquitoes out, flies, et cetera. Also,
21 it's very difficult to properly have a
22 food source for the birds because
23 browntop is the (inaudible) crop. You

1 plant it first of July. You don't get
2 any rain. So, therefore, it's not ready
3 to go by the time season opens in early
4 September.

5 And probably the most important
6 issue for me, as I've hunted dove all my
7 life, is the nesting cycle for doves. I
8 know that probably there's a lot of
9 people in here that have hunted birds
10 and they've been hunting early in the
11 season and they'll get a bird to fly off
12 the nest and knowing that that bird is
13 going to go out and potentially be
14 harvested and, therefore, not just
15 killing that bird, but killing the ones
16 that are in the nest and would be
17 available to harvest at another point in
18 time.

19 I don't know how many people here
20 remember that dove season used to open
21 on October the 1st and run through the
22 middle part of December. Well, it was
23 decided to back it up to somewhere

1 around Labor Day. And, again, I'm
2 just -- I don't know of any hunter that
3 I speak of in the Montgomery area that's
4 for that earlier season opening. Most
5 of them would rather it be later on in
6 October like it was. And I would just
7 respectfully request that the board
8 consider moving dove season forward to
9 October the 1st and running it
10 consecutively --

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
12 please, Mr. Meriwether.

13 MR. MERIWETHER: I'm sorry?

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you would speak into
15 the microphone, please.

16 MR. MERIWETHER: Just move the season forward
17 to October the 1st and let it run
18 through the latter part of November and
19 reduce the middle season or whatever it
20 is now to just a second season, as it
21 used to be, that maybe runs ten days in
22 the month of December. Because that's
23 generally -- I don't really know of

1 anybody that hunts that second season
2 because it's very difficult in this --
3 to have any tract for the birds
4 (inaudible) or the deer or whatever by
5 the time that season comes around.

6 That's all I have. Thank you, sir.
7 Thank y'all.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,
9 Mr. Meriwether.

10 The next speaker is Michael Hagood.

11 MR. HAGOOD: My name is Michael Hagood. I
12 live in Carbon Hill. I hunt mainly the
13 Walker County-Fayette County area.

14 In years past, you know, this state
15 accomplished some great things with the
16 deer herd as far as making huntable
17 populations in places where there wasn't
18 before. But in my opinion, the
19 one-size-fits-all deer management that's
20 being used in this state has run its
21 course and it's time for it to end.

22 It's impossible to believe that applying
23 the same seasons and bag limits to all

1 67 counties is the best way to manage
2 the deer herd and provide what is best
3 for the health of the deer herd and the
4 men and women in this state that hunt
5 those deer.

6 For example, where I live in Walker
7 County, the deer density is much lower
8 than in south-central Alabama and I am
9 sure higher than other parts of the
10 state. Yet all of these areas have the
11 same seasons and the same bag limits.

12 I know there's places in the state
13 that still have many deer. Where I live
14 that is not the case and has never been
15 the case. The deer density did not need
16 to be reduced in Walker County, but that
17 has happened in the last four to five
18 years, applying the same management
19 practices to this area as you have
20 applied to areas that were overpopulated
21 and needed to be reduced. No
22 intelligent person can come to the
23 conclusion that this is or was the best

1 solution to manage the state's deer
2 herd.

3 If we have places where the deer
4 densities are at an unhealthy level,
5 then, by all means, make the changes
6 that are needed to reduce those numbers,
7 even if you have to go as far as having
8 a doe-only season where no bucks can be
9 killed. But in places where this is not
10 the case, either limit the amount of
11 does that can be killed or the season
12 that the does can be killed in.

13 Most other states break their states
14 down into zones and make decisions on
15 bag limits based on what that zone needs
16 and that zone only. Most of the hunters
17 that I have talked to about this would
18 welcome zones in the state of Alabama
19 similar to what they have in the state
20 of Mississippi, ever what would be best
21 for this state. In zones that a later
22 season would be beneficial, well, then,
23 start it two weeks later and end it two

1 weeks later. In a zone that more does
2 need to be killed, well, then, fix it to
3 where more does can be killed. In north
4 Alabama and places where there are few
5 deer, you could shorten it in those
6 zones.

7 To me, this is not rocket science.
8 See what's working to produce the best
9 results in other states and use it. We
10 don't have to reinvent the wheel here.
11 Almost anything would be an improvement
12 over what we have right now in my
13 opinion. That's all I've got to say.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hagood.

15 The next speaker will be Edwards
16 "Mack" McReynolds.

17 MR. McREYNOLDS: Thank you very much. I am
18 from Oviedo, Florida, Seminole County.
19 And I grew up in Dothan, graduated from
20 a college here in Alabama and was in the
21 National Guard here. And my wife and I
22 had the fortunate opportunity on
23 December the 15th, 2005, to buy a

1 gorgeous piece of property in Dale
2 County. It's probably the highest
3 elevation in Dale County.

4 And I ask you today that -- we,
5 obviously, like a lot of hunters, make a
6 sizable investment in this land, and we
7 make a sizable investment in managing
8 this land. And it feels like an
9 outsider when I go in and pay \$275 for a
10 hunting license. And I would suggest
11 that the Commissioner consider allowing
12 property owners who live outside of the
13 state of Alabama to bring in their paid
14 tax receipt, and if their paid tax
15 receipt is twice the amount of a hunting
16 license of \$275, then that person would
17 only be allowed to pay whatever -- no
18 more than an Alabama resident would
19 pay. And that would provide
20 reasonableness to the situation and it
21 wouldn't penalize people like me. I was
22 born in Mobile, Alabama, 64 years ago
23 today. And I just feel like it's

1 inappropriate and unfair.

2 The second topic I want to talk to
3 you about is, I travel from Dothan to
4 Ozark hunting every day, and there's a
5 meat-processing place I pass by when I'm
6 going or coming. And I generally stop
7 in there to get current information on
8 what's being harvested and see what's
9 going on. The first part of the hunting
10 season I drive by, go in there and see
11 Jimmy and, lo and behold, there's two
12 button bucks laying on the floor back
13 there. And I said, Jimmy, what is
14 this? He said, man, that deer will
15 probably clean out at maybe 16 pounds of
16 meat. And I said, I just can't believe
17 this.

18 Now, I own some property in Florida,
19 which I work with the St. Johns Water
20 Management District and sold a
21 conservation easement on it. And we've
22 had this property since 1960. So I've
23 been in this business of wildlife

1 management for a long, long time. And
2 so that disturbed me a great deal. It
3 just doesn't look right and it doesn't
4 feel right in the belt.

5 So later on, a couple of weeks
6 later, I go by there again. Two more
7 button bucks just laying there and then
8 two fawns. And I'm sitting here saying,
9 has the Alabama wildlife management
10 program gone amuck?

11 And from what I can tell in my
12 experience from 44 years of owning
13 wildlife interests and investing in it,
14 I think we're making a serious mistake
15 by letting these animals be slaughtered
16 in this manner without any oversight.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,

19 Mr. McReynolds.

20 The next speaker is Brad Biddle.

21 MR. BIDDLE: I feel like the guy that got up
22 here and said something about driving
23 all this way, so I'm going to talk about

1 it too. I don't have a pier or any
2 turtles, but I would like to talk about
3 deer season.

4 I have a nine-year-old son, and he
5 is -- he and my daughter are my pride
6 and joy. And my son thinks it's really
7 cool to go hunting with dad. I went to
8 the University of Auburn, not a
9 university in the state of Alabama,
10 thank you.

11 I've hunted in Marshall County. We
12 own a farm in Marshall County. I plant
13 year-around food. I lime. I
14 fertilize. I fertilize undergrowth,
15 honeysuckle, everything the deer need.
16 There's not many people in here that
17 are -- that can remember when there
18 weren't any deer. I can remember when
19 there were no deer in south Marshall
20 County because they were stocked in
21 1985. We went from no doe days to three
22 doe days to seven doe days to 120 doe
23 days, two a day. The population on our

1 farm has gone from marginally huntable
2 to none. We have one of the largest
3 plots of land at 120 acres. When you
4 got a guy hunting 120 here and a guy
5 hunting 10 here and 40 here and
6 everybody is out trying to shoot some
7 deer, the doe population goes away
8 pretty quickly.

9 TV, the big buck hunter from
10 Illinois and all this has done a really
11 good job of educating the younger
12 generation that does are bad. Shoot
13 does. You got to kill does if you want
14 to kill big bucks. Well, most of these
15 younger guys don't know anything about
16 deer management, don't know anything
17 about habitat management.

18 If your population is below the
19 carrying capacity of the land, shooting
20 does accomplishes nothing. And I
21 haven't seen a browse line in this state
22 in the last 25 years. I have seen
23 browse lines, but it's been 25 years

1 ago.

2 I've hunted in Marshall County this
3 year. I have a lease in Tallapoosa
4 County this year. And I've hunted in
5 Cherokee County this year. I've seen
6 seven deer this season. I keep cameras
7 running 24 hours a day 365 days a year.
8 On our farm I have one picture of one
9 doe since September.

10 We're almost to the point of having
11 to restock south Marshall County. I
12 mean, I would propose -- I know that it
13 probably still won't happen. I would
14 propose a total ban on doe harvesting in
15 south Marshall County and that general
16 DeKalb County area. Now, Jackson County
17 is an outlier. They've got different
18 soil types. They've got a lot of deer.
19 Marshall, DeKalb, Etowah, Cherokee,
20 those counties --

21 MS. JONES: Mr. Biddle, time.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let -- go ahead and
23 continue just a little bit.

1 MR. BIDDLE: Those specific geographical areas
2 cannot sustain the current rate of deer
3 harvest.

4 A good friend of mine is in a club
5 from Cherokee County. It's 1200 acres
6 of prime, prime habitat, honeysuckle,
7 greenbrier, great cover. From
8 December 15th until the end of the
9 season not one person in that club saw a
10 deer. I went up there one day because I
11 thought they had a die-off. I thought
12 maybe EHD had taken the deer or
13 something. I found one set of tracks in
14 one food plot on that club.

15 You know, we've been wide open on
16 killing does for, I think, seven years
17 now. I don't remember for sure. I'm
18 afraid we passed the tipping point. I
19 know management is a swinging pendulum
20 and you can go too far one way and too
21 far the other. But, you know, I'm
22 afraid that we've gone way too far this
23 way.

1 And I'm like somebody said a minute
2 ago. This needs some immediate
3 attention. Because another couple of
4 years -- combined with the coyote
5 predation, our fawn recruitment rate is
6 almost zero. I mean, Dr. Ditchkoff and
7 the guys at Auburn and the guys at
8 Mississippi State and Tennessee, these
9 guys do extensive research on coyote
10 predation. And when they say 60 percent
11 of the fawn crop is taken by coyotes
12 annually and then you combine that with
13 hunters shooting everything they see, it
14 doesn't take long to knock the deer herd
15 down.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Biddle, we appreciate
17 it.

18 Mr. Moody, are you aware of this
19 situation in Marshall County, ever heard
20 that?

21 Whose district is Marshall County
22 in?

23 Austin, if you could follow up and

1 get with Mr. Moody on that, too, and get
2 some follow-up.

3 MR. AINSWORTH: I will.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The next
5 speaker will be Taylor Gilbert.

6 MR. GILBERT: My name is Taylor Gilbert. I'm
7 from Priceville, Alabama, in St. Clair
8 County. And I'm here representing the
9 small game hunters, basically rabbit
10 hunters.

11 And I strongly support the state's
12 Wildlife Management Areas and Forever
13 Wild and Forever Wild's field trials
14 area, but I'm just as strong against
15 extending the deer season as I am
16 supportive of the others. Because as it
17 stands right now, the rabbit hunters
18 have basically what we consider a
19 one-month season. That's the month of
20 January. And it so happens this meeting
21 is cutting out one of our days of rabbit
22 hunting.

23 But all the deer leases and deer

1 hunters, they don't want rabbit hunters
2 around during deer season. And so if
3 they extend the deer season, that's
4 going to do away with the small game
5 hunters. And I'm not going to expound
6 on the benefits of the small game
7 hunters, such as training kids up the
8 right way and so forth. But we'll talk
9 about the negative of extending the deer
10 season which I'm against. But we're
11 not, I'm going to say, bipartisan, but
12 we're willing to compromise. If they
13 want to extend the deer season into
14 February, then have a split deer
15 season. Give us the month of December.
16 They can have the month of February.
17 That's basically all I've got to say.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Gilbert.

19 The next -- if y'all could hold your
20 applause till the end of the public
21 session, please.

22 Mr. William Smith will be our next
23 speaker.

1 MR. SMITH: I'm with Mr. Taylor Gilbert.

2 We're in the same group. We're all
3 speaking on the same thing, so I'll
4 pass.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much for
6 combining on that. The board will take
7 notice of that.

8 Mr. Jack Williamson will be the next
9 speaker.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: I'm Jack Williamson from
11 Conecuh County, Alabama, the city of
12 Evergreen, I guess, if you'll call it
13 the city. I have been before y'all five
14 of the last six years asking for the
15 same thing. Change the seasons for deer
16 hunting in south Alabama.

17 Mr. Guy, I read your reports, and I
18 agree with them 100 percent. Do not
19 extend the deer season. Do not make it
20 one day longer. I think it would be
21 detrimental to the herd. But we are not
22 allowed in our area to hunt deer during
23 the rut.

1 We have the native deer of Alabama,
2 the genetics that were here when
3 Columbus discovered America. They are
4 late-breeding deer; yet the people that
5 have the deer from the other areas, like
6 Michigan, Ohio, Texas, have an earlier
7 breeding date than our deer. We need to
8 be allowed to hunt them during the rut.

9 I hope that Mr. Moultrie would
10 support this on the same scenario that
11 you supported the use of turkey decoys.
12 I would hope that the other members of
13 this board would also.

14 Mr. Hatley, I hope you would support
15 it because it affects so many counties
16 that are in your district.

17 And, Dr. Strickland, you're a big
18 supporter of bow hunting in this state,
19 one of the greatest supporters of it.
20 It would help our bow hunters to open
21 the season later.

22 And, Mr. Hartzog, the counties that
23 are also in your district are affected

1 by this.

2 And, Dr. Shipp, you have changed the
3 snapper seasons, the oyster seasons, and
4 the shrimp seasons. Use that as a
5 grounds to also change our deer seasons
6 in this state.

7 It's just a sad state of affairs
8 that we are not allowed to hunt -- the
9 rut will start next week. Next week is
10 when you'll see our bucks running in the
11 daytime. You'll see scrapes all in the
12 woods. You'll see them running all over
13 the place, does crossing highways.
14 We're going to have more and more
15 automobile accidents in the next few
16 weeks.

17 The season should and needs to be
18 changed for south Alabama. It's a very
19 simple thing to do. The gentleman
20 talking about rabbits had the solution.
21 I've talked to many of the people
22 there. They say we'd give up the whole
23 month of December for February or we'd

1 be willing to give up the first two
2 weeks in order to have two weeks in
3 February. I do not want an extended
4 season.

5 Mr. Guy missed one social issue. If
6 you extend the season, the divorce rate
7 will go up in Alabama. So we do not
8 need to extend it.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Williamson, let me
10 interrupt you here for a second.

11 Mr. Moody, what do the fetal studies
12 from his county show? When is the rut
13 dates?

14 MR. MOODY: They're in here and I'll have to
15 dig them out.

16 MR. WILLIAMSON: I can give them to you.
17 They --

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, Mr. Williamson, I'm
19 going to get that from Mr. Moody if you
20 don't mind. I think we know your
21 opinion.

22 Mr. Williamson, thank you very
23 much. I think the board is well aware

1 of your situation and we're well looking
2 into it. These fetal studies -- again,
3 this decision by this board of seasons
4 should be based on biological data, not
5 human emotion of what somebody wants.
6 And so I would encourage the board to
7 look at the data presented by
8 Mr. Moody's group, and then we'll make
9 adjustments from there.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

12 Okay. We're going to take a
13 15-minute recess before we get into the
14 dog hunting/anti-dog hunting group. But
15 be back promptly in 15 minutes.

16 (A brief recess was taken.)

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We'll get started again.

18 I'm going to change the order. If the
19 board will notice, I've got a speaker
20 that had to leave, and the Chair is
21 going to change him.

22 Our next speaker will be Mr. Charles
23 Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence will be

1 accompanied by Mr. Schmidt. The board
2 will notice they're trying to condense
3 for us, condense the time down, so we
4 appreciate that.

5 Mr. Lawrence.

6 MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you. I'm --

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
8 please, Mr. Lawrence.

9 MR. LAWRENCE: I'm Charles Lawrence from
10 Titus, Alabama. This is
11 Colonel Al Schmidt, and this is David
12 Law. We are landowners out in Titus.
13 And we are here to speak against dog
14 hunting in the Titus, Alabama, area.

15 Mr. Hartzog is our Advisory Board
16 rep, and we -- I have spoken to him and
17 I believe Mr. Schmidt has on numerous
18 occasions. And, actually, he told me
19 that when we came up here he would ask
20 the conservation officer to give him a
21 history.

22 Our conservation officer, Heath
23 Walls, is here. And Mr. Walls has

1 agreed --

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay, Mr. Lawrence. We
3 may speak on that in the new business
4 section, but right now we want your
5 comments.

6 MR. LAWRENCE: Okay. Well, go ahead, Al. You
7 want to talk real quick.

8 MR. SCHMIDT: My name is Al Schmidt, and I
9 thank you for the opportunity to be here
10 today. I, too, live in Elmore County
11 near Titus, Alabama. I have property
12 adjacent to my friends here.

13 My petition, which is on the table
14 here in the midst of this, has some 14
15 to 15 signatures representing
16 approximately 1500 to 2,000 acres of
17 land contiguous to my 150 acres that I
18 live on and so on and so forth. The
19 problem that has been going on for many,
20 many years, but particularly difficult
21 this year, is that dog hunters were
22 hunting and such that the dogs came --
23 kept crossing property lines and coming

1 onto our areas.

2 My family and I are stalk/stand
3 hunters. We have an Alabama TREASURE
4 Forest. We've worked hard to do the
5 right thing with our property. But dog
6 hunting has been particularly difficult
7 this year, but also it has been an
8 ongoing problem.

9 The petition asks for the
10 installation of a permit system. We're
11 not trying to ban dog hunting. That's
12 not my point at all. But I would like
13 to see this board consider the
14 installation of a permit system
15 particularly for our area and perhaps
16 all of Elmore County. But I'm not here
17 to speak for the whole area. I'm
18 talking principally the area that's --
19 and I have given a description of the
20 boundaries of that property. I thank
21 you very much.

22 MR. LAW: My name is David Law, and I'm also
23 one of the landowners there. And my

1 property actually borders Elmore and
2 Coosa County. I own 160 acres there.
3 I'm not much of a hunter, but I do like
4 to enjoy my property without being --

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
6 please, sir.

7 MR. LAW: Sorry. I thought I was.

8 But I would like to have the
9 opportunity to enjoy my property without
10 worrying about getting shot at from the
11 road from people supposedly searching
12 for their dogs. It's become a big issue
13 in our area.

14 It baffles me to know that -- one
15 side of my fence is Coosa County. If
16 you want to dog hunt there --

17 MS. JONES: Time.

18 MR. LAW: -- you must have a permit, but on
19 the north side of my fence -- on the
20 south side of my fence you do not have
21 to have a permit. And I just don't
22 quite understand why that would be
23 different.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. We appreciate
2 y'all combining today.

3 Mr. Lawrence, do you have any final
4 topic?

5 MR. LAWRENCE: Yes, I do.

6 I have a friend that has property in
7 south Elmore County there in Redland,
8 and there is no dog hunting there. And
9 I'd like to ask the advisory committee
10 why there's no dog hunting there and yet
11 in Titus we do have it.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Where is there no dog
13 hunting?

14 MR. LAWRENCE: In Redland, south Elmore
15 County.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: What district is that?

17 MR. LAWRENCE: That would be Mr. Hartzog's.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

19 MR. HARTZOG: It's an area that's been closed
20 by a previous board action.

21 MR. LAWRENCE: And just to add to what they
22 said, I hunt back on Weoka Creek, which
23 is our boundary line. And on two

1 different occasions I've had to hit the
2 deck where hunters from across the creek
3 were shooting at game that were in the
4 creek or on my property. And, you know,
5 again, like I said, it's causing an
6 unsafe situation, and it's also causing
7 a situation where -- we hunt ethically.
8 We do feed plots. We try to manage our
9 property. And, you know, once
10 dog-hunting season opens up, everything
11 goes out the window. Thank you for your
12 time.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Lawrence.

14 The next speaker will be Justin
15 Brown.

16 MR. BROWN: If it's okay with you, can we
17 group together to save time?

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is he a speaker also?

19 MR. BROWN: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. What's his name?

21 MR. BROWN: Sonny Granger.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. I appreciate y'all
23 going together.

1 MR. BROWN: No problem.

2 Earlier in the year I sent each of
3 you a letter regarding our property in
4 Coffee County, specifically in the
5 Woodland Grove area. We've been in
6 communication with Mr. Hartzog.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
8 please, sir.

9 MR. BROWN: Sorry. Earlier this year I sent a
10 letter out to the entire Advisory
11 Board. I also included a PowerPoint
12 presentation that I sent to each of you
13 guys. I'm not sure if you guys got a
14 chance to review that, but there's not a
15 whole lot I can say that hasn't already
16 been stated in years past concerning the
17 dog hunting. It's an issue we deal with
18 on a weekly basis, and we're tired of
19 it. And we're just asking that this
20 problem gets addressed.

21 It's not rocket science. We still
22 hunt. We manage our land. The
23 consistent perpetual trespassing of the

1 dogs on our property is just to the
2 point to where something is going to
3 happen, and we're asking you guys to
4 address it. And like I said before,
5 there's nothing I can say here that's
6 any new information that you guys don't
7 already know. Thank you for your time.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

9 Mr. Granger.

10 MR. GRANGER: Just to add to that, you know,
11 this issue -- a lot of you have seen us
12 up here before. This isn't the first
13 time. This has been going on for
14 years. You know, we respect the dog
15 hunters and their tradition, but the
16 problem is they're not respecting our
17 tradition of still hunting by allowing
18 the dogs to get on our property. It's a
19 rampant problem.

20 If you'll look at the map, the large
21 map that we printed out, that's our
22 land, and inside of the yellow lines are
23 the roads that are county and public

1 roads that are within our property
2 boundaries. It represents 13 miles of
3 public roads within our property.

4 And so I ask you to take a look at
5 that and understand. There's -- in the
6 other report you see the pictures of the
7 guys lining the roads and things like
8 that. Some of them are catching dogs.
9 Some of them are actually shooting a
10 deer. We do have a criminal trespass
11 that occurred on the property this
12 year. And, I mean, a lot of it -- a lot
13 of things. We've had a rampant
14 problem. It was literally every
15 weekend, all the time.

16 Our tradition is a club that was
17 started 40 years ago, and our club is in
18 jeopardy because we've got guys who
19 don't want to deal with the stress, who
20 won't come up here and speak, because
21 they're honestly scared. And they don't
22 want to have the stress of that. They
23 hunt for stress relief, not stress

1 addition.

2 And so what we're asking for is, at
3 a minimum, that the permit system get
4 put on the ballot to be voted on at the
5 next meeting. We've talked to
6 Mr. Hartzog about that, and I think that
7 is a logical choice. South Coffee
8 County has already been banned, so it's
9 pushed it up on us.

10 The permit system doesn't take away
11 the rights of dog hunters. It just
12 forces them to police themselves in a
13 way that's appropriate manner for that
14 method of hunting. It gives the
15 wildlife officers the ability to review
16 the permits ahead of time and see where
17 the land is and understand where the
18 permits -- and it can identify conflicts
19 ahead of time.

20 So we really strongly request,
21 Mr. Hartzog and the Board, that that be
22 put on the ballot today to be voted on
23 because it's -- it's jeopardizing our

1 tradition and our property and our
2 property rights. And we really
3 sincerely appreciate that.

4 Also, we'd like to ask for special
5 consideration in the permit system to
6 establish a reasonable buffer zone --

7 MS. JONES: Time.

8 MR. GRANGER: -- on that property, a one-mile
9 radius around our property so that these
10 problems don't continue to occur.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Granger.
12 Thank you, Mr. Brown.

13 Okay. The next speaker -- and
14 excuse me on the name -- Stephen
15 Minhinnette.

16 MR. MINHINNETTE: Good morning. My name is
17 Steve Minhinnette. I'm from Mobile.
18 And I'm here today to talk about the
19 dog-hunting problems we're having in
20 Butler County.

21 Our sentiment is the same as the
22 previous two speakers here. We have
23 basically the same problems at our

1 place. It's been an ongoing issue for
2 many, many years. We've tried to work
3 with them. We've tried to work through
4 them. It never ends. They have no
5 regard for anybody else and we're tired
6 of it.

7 We've been in contact with
8 Mr. Hartzog, who's also our
9 representative. It's Butler County.
10 The southeastern portion of Butler
11 County doesn't allow dog hunting south
12 of Highway 106 and east of I-65. You
13 know, we would love to continue that to
14 the rest of the county. Go ahead and
15 extend it to the western portion. At
16 the very least, put them on the permit
17 system. Make them be accountable for
18 what they're doing.

19 We've got problems. And I stood up
20 here last year and asked for y'all's
21 help, and we didn't get anything. You
22 know, maybe this year is our year. We'd
23 appreciate any consideration that y'all

1 would all consider to us. Thanks a lot.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Steve.

3 The next speaker is Steve Pierce.

4 MR. PIERCE: Thank y'all very much. Thank
5 you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Gentlemen, dog hunting, true. Not
7 condemning dog hunters, but when they
8 get to where they don't have respect for
9 theirselves or nobody else, it's time
10 to -- somebody to say something.

11 I don't try and condemn the dog
12 hunters. Used to be one. Loved it.
13 But at least we done it with respect for
14 everybody else. The ones you got -- and
15 all of them down around home -- I'm from
16 Andalusia, Alabama -- are not that way.
17 You've got a few -- just like anything
18 else, a couple of bad apples rot the
19 whole barrel. It's not right.

20 I've talked with the people in
21 Enterprise. They said -- you know, and
22 it's -- south of 84 is dog -- open dog
23 hunting. North of 84 they got to be

1 permitted. I'm not saying that's right
2 or wrong. Something needs to be done
3 because it is -- it's dangerous for
4 stalk hunters to go get in a tree stand,
5 a shooting house, a blind, whatever.
6 When you got people running on paper
7 company land and they come right next to
8 the boundary line to turn their dogs
9 out, it's not the dog's fault. The dog
10 can't read the property line. But when
11 they do it -- and, you know, that's
12 blatantly turning them out on private
13 land. That's wrong. That's dead
14 wrong.

15 I don't know what the solution is.
16 I wished I did. Y'all got a hell of a
17 job. I commend you for doing it.

18 And another thing, I have been in
19 contact with our game warden. He has my
20 cell phone number in his cell phone.
21 I've told him about it. I've complained
22 about it, groaned about it, whatever you
23 want to call it, about the night hunting

1 where they go by and kill bucks, take
2 the horns off and throw the whole
3 carcass out beside the road. Seven
4 carcasses in five weeks in the same
5 area. That's ridiculous. There's no
6 excuse in it, gentlemen, none.

7 I wished I knew the answer to the
8 problem. I'm asking somebody smarter
9 than me to answer it, please.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: What's your area,
11 Mr. Pierce? What county?

12 MR. PIERCE: Covington County.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Covington County. Whose
14 area is that?

15 Mr. Hartzog, if you'd look at that,
16 please, sir. I'm sorry, Mr. Hartzog.
17 I'm not trying to pick on you.

18 Mr. Pierce, thank you very much.

19 MR. PIERCE: Thank you. Thank you, gentlemen.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Excuse me. The
21 Commissioner would like to make a
22 comment.

23 COMMISSIONER GUY: You brought up a good -- if

1 I could -- and it may apply to you. I
2 know there was a TV report about
3 carcasses being thrown on the side of
4 the road, deer carcasses. And I don't
5 know if that's what you're referring to
6 or not.

7 MR. PIERCE: I'm not sure.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: But, you know, folks, it
9 just brings a bad name on what we do and
10 what we love when we allow that to
11 happen. We need to police ourselves so
12 that if you know who does that kind of
13 thing, you report them. It's not
14 helping what we're all about when you've
15 got people that are creating a worse
16 public image of us because of the sport
17 that we like, deer hunting, and they're
18 throwing carcasses on the side of the
19 road and then the news stations are
20 reporting it and covering it. And it
21 just comes back to all of us.

22 So I know that I saw a report here
23 in Montgomery, a major news channel, and

1 it embarrassed me. And I just -- I just
2 want to encourage everybody here that if
3 they are aware of that kind of thing
4 going on, report it to our officials,
5 our game wardens. And if you know those
6 kind of people, make them feel -- make
7 them feel badly about it. I mean, make
8 them not want to do it anymore, whatever
9 you need to do. I mean, that's what I
10 would ask of you.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Pierce.

12 MR. PIERCE: Thank you, sir.

13 One more thing too. It's a problem
14 with -- like I say, the carcasses being
15 throwed out, that's creating coyote
16 problems. You know, I mean, it's giving
17 them something to multiply on. And
18 people throwing them in the creeks,
19 that -- I don't know how you feel about
20 that, Mr. Chairman, but it makes me mad
21 as hell.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No. It's horrible,
23 absolutely horrible.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: We've got people that want
2 to eat those deer. We have a Hunters
3 Helping the Hungry program that we
4 donate money to to process it. They
5 don't need to be thrown in the ditches
6 when there are people out there that
7 need to get that food from our food
8 bank. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

10 MR. PIERCE: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Frank
12 Sapp and, also, his wife Jacqueline.

13 MS. SAPP: He's hard of hearing. That's why
14 I'm talking.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You go ahead.

16 MS. SAPP: We have some land in --

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
18 please.

19 MS. SAPP: My name is Jacquelyn Sapp, and we
20 have some land in Geneva County and
21 Coffee County. And we've owned that
22 since 2000, I think. We bought it in
23 2000, and ever since we've bought it

1 dogs have run it. You can go out there
2 and you can see dog tracks, deer tracks
3 on all our food plots, everything.

4 The Coffee County one stopped two or
5 three years ago. So they moved down to
6 the back on the management area, up
7 against the management area. And they
8 put them in back there now, and they run
9 down the back of it.

10 So he's -- he got two deer in 12
11 years still hunting. They -- we hear
12 them shooting constant and the dogs
13 running constant, and we'd like to have
14 something done about that. I think that
15 they're not even supposed to be on the
16 Coffee County part. We have 20 in
17 Coffee and 80 in Geneva.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, ma'am. Thank you
19 very much.

20 Mr. Hartzog, if you'll take note,
21 please, sir.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Sir?

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's in your area

1 again.

2 Thank y'all very much.

3 MS. SAPP: They also -- one of our friends
4 caught two of their dogs on there and
5 took them to them. The name was Steve
6 (inaudible). And I told the game warden
7 about this. And he told -- he told my
8 friend that he would put them anywhere
9 he wanted to. He told them not to put
10 them back on our property, and he told
11 him that he'd put them where he wanted
12 to.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. and
14 Ms. Sapp.

15 MR. SAPP: One of the gentlemen that run the
16 dogs in our property, he told my
17 neighbor that --

18 MS. SAPP: I told them.

19 MR. SAPP: Okay. I'm sorry. I can't hear.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's all right. Thank
21 you, Mr. Sapp.

22 The next speaker is Jerry Alford.
23 Who's the other one coming?

1 MR. ALFORD: Jim Dye.

2 All right. I'm Jerry Alford,
3 vice-president of C & W Hunting Club,
4 northern Greene County. We are a
5 dog-hunting club. We have 30 families
6 involved in our club. It's not a
7 membership. It's a family-oriented
8 situation.

9 We turn loose dogs every Saturday
10 and Sunday. No dogs is turned loose on
11 our property without tracking systems.
12 We know where our dogs are. We don't --
13 we have rules to keep dogs from being
14 turned loose within no closer than a
15 hundred yards of our property lines. We
16 try to do our dog hunting the right way,
17 and we support dog hunting for our
18 community.

19 MR. DYE: And to reiterate, my name is Jim
20 Dye. We do try to hunt the right way.
21 We employ the tracking systems. We
22 lease property and set it up strictly as
23 buffer zones on the outer edges of our

1 property to give buffers so that we
2 don't -- to keep our dogs from getting
3 on somebody else. We have agreements
4 with a couple of landowners not to run
5 in certain times of day during -- during
6 the peak still hunting, mornings and
7 afternoons. We stay away from those
8 areas. We keep our dogs away from those
9 areas.

10 We enjoy dog hunting. We love it.
11 It's what we do. And, like I said, I
12 implore anybody that has a complaint
13 against us -- and we heard that there
14 were some, but none of them were ever
15 documented -- you know, to come talk to
16 us. If there's an issue, we're grown
17 men. We're not children. We'll be glad
18 to sit down and talk and try to work out
19 any situation or any problem and come
20 to, you know, an agreement like we have
21 with some of our other adjoining
22 property owners.

23 Like I said, we -- we just try to do

1 it right, and we want to keep doing it
2 right. And I encourage and challenge
3 other dog hunters to do the same thing.
4 If you've got a problem -- if you've got
5 a dog hunter that's a problem, cull your
6 nuts, you know, do something about it so
7 he doesn't ruin it for the rest of us.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The lack of y'all having a
9 district representative right now, I
10 will -- during the district board
11 reports I'm going to address y'all's
12 area.

13 MR. DYE: Okay. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all.

15 MR. DYE: And if you can address that hyena
16 hunting season.

17 (Brief interruption.)

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker
19 will be Mr. Billy Bowden.

20 And if the next speaker would be
21 getting ready, Christa Bragg. If she
22 would get ready, maybe we can save some
23 time here.

1 Mr. Bowden.

2 MR. BOWDEN: Yes, sir. My name is Billy
3 Bowden, and I live on Sewell Road in
4 Titus, Alabama. I hunt with a
5 dog-hunting club. We have 3500 acres.
6 Our land joins these other fellows that
7 have the petition.

8 If they want a petition, we can get
9 all the landowners up there to sign it
10 because they're the ones that let the
11 hogs on us. They come from across the
12 creek out of a pen. You can see the pen
13 from our property. And we are overrun
14 with hogs. We have tried to trap them,
15 and all we can do is get dogs on them.
16 We killed four stalk hunting. We killed
17 21 with dogs. Then they moved. And
18 it's just a problem. They're worried
19 about the dogs, but if we don't have no
20 dogs, the hogs is -- we're not going to
21 have any deer. They're going to take
22 care of the deer.

23 They turned out over a hundred

1 hogs. They said they got out of the
2 pen. But our whole land is overrun with
3 hogs. We had a seminar on it.
4 Mr. Johnson and Mr. Jaworski, they had a
5 meeting at Titus on it. And I own -- me
6 and my family have a hundred acres on
7 Sewell Road where they live at. So it's
8 not like we don't have land. And we
9 have a tracking system on our dogs, and
10 we try to keep them off everybody's
11 land. We do not turn them loose after
12 three o'clock in the evening. And in
13 the mornings we do not turn out before
14 8:30 to give stalk hunters -- if we get
15 close to them, they'll have a chance to
16 hunt. We won't bother them. There's
17 big landowners next to us that's glad
18 for us. Even the probate judge's land
19 is close to us, and he wants us to kill
20 them hogs. But like some people said,
21 we -- I wouldn't think we can even
22 control them. There's too many of
23 them. We have a problem, a big

1 problem.

2 If it's not any deer -- we didn't
3 have this problem till we got a cutover
4 right over behind these people's
5 houses. And that's where all the hogs
6 was at. A six or seven-year-old cutover
7 just like this with briars. And that's
8 where all those hogs was hiding at. We
9 went in there and started running hogs.
10 Here they come out. They started
11 cussing us. And then that went into,
12 you know, different things. And I never
13 went back down there no more. I didn't
14 want to be cussed no more. I never went
15 back down there. Let somebody else go.

16 But, anyway, that's the problem
17 we've got. And, you know, we try to do
18 right. We got a tracking system. We
19 spent \$3,000 on a tracking system to
20 keep our dogs off of everybody's land.
21 Them collars is \$200 apiece. A tracking
22 system is \$400 apiece. And we bought
23 four of them. And that's all I got to

1 say. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bowden.

3 The next speaker is Christa Bragg.

4 MS. BRAGG: My daughter, Madison, and Jerry
5 Temple are going to come with me.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Who is coming with you?

7 MS. BRAGG: Jerry Temple.

8 MR. TEMPLE: Jerry Temple.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold on. Let me find
10 you.

11 The very last page, Board.

12 Okay. Go ahead.

13 MR. TEMPLE: Okay. My name is Jerry Temple.

14 I'm a member of Red Oak. I have been
15 for 23 years. I'm also the
16 secretary/treasurer for the Coffee
17 County Dog Hunters Association, that
18 chapter.

19 I thought we had a pretty uneventful
20 year this year till right at the end of
21 the season when I start hearing a lot of
22 rumors that I didn't hear all through
23 the year. So I got together and talked

1 with some people.

2 During the year, about the second or
3 third week into the season, we did have
4 an event where a couple of dogs got
5 across a paved highway on the eastern
6 end of our property. We hunt about
7 4900 acres all in one block. It's
8 bordered by the river on the north side,
9 84 on the south side, a county road --
10 paved road on the east side, and a dirt
11 road on the west end. They did get onto
12 another hunting club that's a stalk and
13 still hunting club.

14 Myself and one of our associates,
15 the man who owned the dog, we had went
16 to the southeast end of these people's
17 property tracking those dogs. We
18 weren't able to call one of the dogs out
19 that afternoon. We came up on a couple
20 of the members there at one of the gates
21 and talked to them about it. And the
22 man said he saw the dog and the deer
23 that morning. He said, if the deer had

1 had one more point, I would have
2 harvested it. He was a big deer, huge
3 deer. They only shot
4 three-and-a-half-year-olds or six-points
5 or better or something like that.

6 So, anyway, they were not very
7 excited about the situation, and so they
8 went on and left. We were able to call
9 one of the dogs out that afternoon to
10 the paved road, and we tracked that
11 other dog all that afternoon. The dog
12 was pretty much in the same spot within
13 a 40-acre area there. Never could get
14 her to come out. Mr. German decided
15 she'd spend the night that night, so he
16 had to leave her.

17 The next day we went over there and
18 checked her at daylight, and she was
19 right there in the same area. So we
20 went on and made the first hunt that
21 morning and came back over there that
22 afternoon. The dog was -- well,
23 actually, it was around 10:30,

1 11 o'clock in the morning. Mr. German
2 decided that -- seeing the gate was open
3 there -- and, of course, we knew whose
4 hunting property it was and understand
5 they lease it. They lease it from the
6 same people we lease 1,034 acres from.
7 So didn't think that it was that big of
8 a deal.

9 Mr. German decided to go in and get
10 his dog. He's 68 years old. He's got a
11 bad knee. He couldn't walk in there.
12 He couldn't get the dog out. So thought
13 that they might have the dog tied to a
14 tree. That club has been notorious for
15 catching dogs and not letting people
16 have their dogs when they got them.
17 And, matter of fact, several years ago
18 two dogs were killed over there. The
19 man did not get prosecuted because the
20 Alabama Dog Hunters Association decided
21 to step back and let his father cover
22 the deal and decided not to pursue it
23 any further.

1 Anyway, he went in there and got the
2 dog in ten minutes. This man got
3 upset. He called the sheriff. The
4 sheriff come around --

5 MS. JONES: Time.

6 MR. TEMPLE: -- there. He talked to the man.
7 And it wasn't that big of a deal, I
8 didn't think. But one incident, didn't
9 see them the rest of the year.

10 I just want y'all to understand
11 something. I know Grady has probably
12 had some good retrievers. A dog to some
13 of these people ain't no different than
14 this young'un right here. If this girl
15 knew that young'un was down there on
16 that property, she wouldn't have to call
17 nobody. That's her young'un. And there
18 are some dogs here -- I squalled worse
19 over some deer dogs that I've had than
20 some of my family members. That's how
21 much these people care about their
22 dogs. And I'm the same way. I ain't no
23 different.

1 But I want you to look at these
2 issues. Do what you think you got to
3 do, but I wish you'd take everything
4 into consideration because it's going to
5 be an economical impact on this state.
6 The economy, the way it is, from the
7 city government to Capitol Hill, y'all
8 know what's going on. Y'all cut a
9 thousand people out of license and gas
10 and everything we buy in this state and
11 it's going to have an economic impact.

12 Now, I can play golf. It don't
13 matter. I can play golf nine months.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Temple, I'd like to
15 hear from Christa, please, sir, and the
16 board would too. Christa.

17 MS. BRAGG: Okay. I come --

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And, Christa, please
19 introduce who's with you.

20 MS. BRAGG: I'm Christa Bragg, and this is my
21 daughter, Madison, and she's nine. And
22 I come to you as a mother, a wife, a
23 hunter, and also a veterinarian. So I'm

1 a veterinarian who loves to dog hunt.
2 Madison has dog hunted since she could
3 walk. Got her first gun at five. And
4 she loves to hunt.

5 And what we do up there is -- you
6 have a red packet that I put together
7 for you. It's got pictures of the
8 kids. The kids are involved. It's not
9 one of those things where wives and
10 children only come one weekend a
11 month -- I mean, one weekend a hunting
12 season. We are there every step of the
13 way with our husbands, our families.
14 There's a letter in there from my child
15 about what dog hunting means to her and
16 several of the other children.

17 And then not only is it dog season
18 and hunting season we're talking about.
19 During the summertime of the year,
20 there's four-wheeling, there's fishing,
21 there's -- all of our children are
22 involved in that club year around. And
23 I would hate to see something like that

1 taken away from our children and them
2 not get to grow up in that same
3 situation.

4 I'm 40. My husband has been a
5 member of that club since he was as old
6 as her. So that's our family tradition
7 is those dog-hunting -- and that's what
8 we do. She -- she just enjoys it. The
9 kids enjoy it.

10 And then something else I wanted to
11 touch on, too, is at the end you'll see
12 a GPS map. You know, we do what we can
13 do to keep our dogs off other people's
14 property. We have invested over \$2,000
15 in the new GPS system. So I know where
16 my dogs are every five seconds. There's
17 a -- on the next page there's an update
18 that shows you just a few minutes of
19 what it does. Every five seconds I know
20 where my dog's at, what it's doing. And
21 if it gets close to a highway, we stop
22 hunting. We're done. We're going to
23 get our dogs. If it's going off our

1 property, we're going to get our dogs.
2 Our dogs come first. And other people,
3 their property is -- we do our best to
4 keep them off of other people's
5 property. And I just wanted to let
6 y'all know that. I mean, we just -- we
7 love it and it's a family thing, so ...

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Bragg, thank you very
9 much.

10 Madison, what does your shirt say
11 for the board?

12 MS. BRAGG: It says, trust me, I hunt like a
13 girl.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all very much.

15 MS. BRAGG: Thank y'all. I also went to the
16 University.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is
18 Mr. Dick Dunn.

19 MR. DUNN: Thank you for giving me this
20 opportunity to speak. I'm a dog
21 hunter. I'm Dick Dunn from Tuscaloosa,
22 Alabama. I hunt north Greene County
23 primarily. Our club is Spring Hill

1 Hunting Club. We adjoin C & W.

2 We have a large mass of land that we
3 dog hunt, and we do everything possible
4 to keep our dogs contained on our
5 property. And we do a pretty good job
6 of it, but occasionally we do have one
7 to get off our land.

8 And we're pretty much -- we help
9 each other out catching dogs. We run
10 tracking collars on all our dogs. And
11 used to, I had as many as 16 dogs.
12 Well, I've cut down. I'm hunting five
13 dogs. I can manage five dogs, me and my
14 son together. And we keep them
15 contained.

16 I've heard talk about permit systems
17 or, you know, doing away with dog
18 hunting in different areas. Well, I
19 think -- you know, I've dog hunted since
20 I was a young boy. I've got a grandson
21 that's 12 years old that dog hunts with
22 me. He is the fifth generation of dog
23 hunters. I grew up in south Alabama.

1 As a boy, we always had deer, and I
2 appreciate that. And I appreciate what
3 y'all do for us to make sure that we'll
4 have deer in my -- on into my life
5 span.

6 But just consider before y'all make
7 a decision. Because if you get
8 complaints, try to get the dog hunter
9 that's involved in it and the property
10 owner together and hear both sides of
11 the story at once. Don't get this
12 hearsay over here and hearsay over
13 here. Get a neutral person to sit down
14 and talk to these people and try to work
15 it out. Do something. Because I'd hate
16 to see it lost. I'll probably quit
17 hunting and probably go to rabbit
18 hunting if we could get December.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dunn.

20 All right. The next speaker is
21 Kaelyn Fillingim.

22 Y'all better get ready.

23 MS. FILLINGIM: Hello. My name is Kaelyn

1 Fillingim. I'm 14 years old and from
2 Coffee County, Alabama. I'm here in the
3 support of dog hunting.

4 My dad, Troy, has spoken at these
5 meetings before and is an avid dog
6 hunter. He and I have hunted together
7 ever since I can remember. We do
8 everything possible to stay in
9 compliance with the state's rules and
10 regulations. This year alone my dad has
11 spent \$6,000 on GPS collars with Google
12 Earth, shock collars, and whistle-broke
13 dogs, not including hunting dues and
14 food plots.

15 We own several acres of our own land
16 and are actively involved in more than
17 one dog-hunting lease. We are a member
18 of Victoria Hunting Club which was
19 started in 1968. Our club still
20 includes seven of its founding members,
21 three of which are in their mid 70s and
22 hunt every day dog season has to offer.
23 We also have several youth that hunt in

1 our club and have killed numerous deer
2 throughout the season.

3 We cherish our dogs dearly and hope
4 that we can continue our traditions for
5 generations to come. We are very aware
6 of the opposition that is here today.
7 It is a known fact there were several
8 violations wrote to still hunters in our
9 area this past season. Victoria Hunting
10 Club had no violations, and we strive to
11 keep it that way. Many of our
12 opposition do not hunt. Some own less
13 than 10 acres of land and several don't
14 own any land in our area. They're just
15 involved in hunting leases, not to
16 mention the ones that live out of
17 state.

18 We personally own property that land
19 bordering ours is being hunted by still
20 hunters. An example of this is one of
21 our co-hunters witnessed a gun barrel
22 protruding out of a shooting house
23 facing our property. This shooting

1 house is bordering the property line.
2 We as dog hunters are aware there are
3 still-hunting complaints as well as
4 dog-hunting complaints.

5 It is evident that our state is
6 struggling financially and the budget
7 for our Conservation Department is more
8 than likely declining, although a game
9 warden flew a state plane on
10 January 14th for approximately two hours
11 over where three dog clubs exist. This
12 amazes me that if my state can't afford
13 to buy me a new textbook, how in the
14 world can we afford to fly a state plane
15 for two hours.

16 We have never witnessed any other
17 hunters at these meetings having to
18 fight for their rights. It is evident
19 that other hunting practices are getting
20 complaints and violations in this
21 state. Is there any explanations why
22 they're not having to fight for their
23 rights?

1 To you, our opposition, you will
2 need us in the next hunting battle. It
3 will not be with the dog hunter but with
4 the anti-hunter. I personally feel if
5 our dog-hunting rights are expelled, we
6 will not be here to help you in your
7 next fight.

8 And as far as the permit system, if
9 our dog hunting has to go to a permit
10 system, then shouldn't still hunters
11 have to go to a permit system?

12 MS. JONES: Time.

13 MS. FILLINGIM: So my question to you today
14 is --

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Kaelyn, you continue.

16 MS. FILLINGIM: So my question to you today
17 is, why are there not disciplinary
18 actions being taken in all forms of
19 hunting?

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Kaelyn, what -- y'all hold
21 the applause.

22 Kaelyn, what school do you go to?

23 MS. FILLINGIM: I go to Zion Chapel High

1 School in Coffee County, Alabama.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are you on the debate
3 team?

4 MS. FILLINGIM: I am. I have been.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good job. Thank you.

6 MS. FILLINGIM: But could you answer my
7 question, please?

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. Mr. Hartzog is
9 all over it. Thank you, Kaelyn.

10 The next speaker is Lamar Giles.

11 If we would come to order, please.

12 Mr. Giles.

13 MR. GILES: Somehow I knew I was going to have
14 to follow her.

15 Mr. Chairman, Board Members, my name
16 is Lamar Giles. I'm secretary/treasurer
17 of Old Union Point Hunting Club in east
18 Chilton County. A brief history of our
19 club.

20 It was started in the early '70s,
21 and it was incorporated in 1978 -- I
22 mean, May of 1977. We've been in this
23 same location for 40 years as a deer --

1 dog deer hunting club. And in the 40
2 years, as far as we know, we've had one
3 citation from the game warden. We've
4 had very little problems. Most of the
5 people that lived around our clubs were
6 the people we grew up with and our
7 neighbors. And we -- last -- this past
8 season we leased and had permits on 4500
9 acres of land. We had 36 members, plus
10 children and grandchildren under 18
11 years of age that hunt free. We had 36
12 paying members.

13 And two of our rules that --
14 probably the most important is, first of
15 all, we allow no alcoholic beverages on
16 our hunting club. And the second one is
17 the rule that we abide by state laws.

18 Now, this past year y'all voted to
19 put us on the permit system. And we did
20 all of the paperwork, sent it in to
21 Northport. And they had -- they asked
22 us to meet with a couple of the
23 conservation officers. Roy Wilson,

1 who's our president, and I met with
2 Cliff Robinson and Ms. Kathy, who is the
3 local game warden. And they explained
4 the rules under the permit system. And,
5 thereafter, we called a meeting of the
6 club members and went over the rules
7 with them. And we have done our best to
8 comply.

9 And we're just all family men and
10 members of the community, and we just
11 ask that we get to hunt the -- you know,
12 our traditional way within the law.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.

15 Mr. Don Knight.

16 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman?

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

18 MR. HARTZOG: Can I ask one question?

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog. Mr. Giles,
20 if you could come back to the
21 microphone.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Does the permit system work?

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Please hold your

1 comments. Only the speaker speaks.

2 MR. GILES: You know, it was our first year,

3 and I don't know if we've had any

4 complaints. I haven't heard of any.

5 But we're going to try to make it work.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Giles.

7 The next speaker is Mr. Don Knight.

8 MR. KNIGHT: Dan, I'm trying to decide whether

9 to run that little girl for governor or

10 give her my job as the state president

11 of the Dog Hunters Association. She

12 done an excellent job up here.

13 I'm Don Knight, and I'm the state

14 president of the Alabama Dog Hunters

15 Association. I live in Piedmont,

16 Alabama, but I hunt in Barbour County.

17 Mr. Grady, you have been thrown

18 under the bus today. I want to

19 apologize to you. I do know about all

20 these problems. About two weeks ago I

21 got me a pacemaker and defibrillator put

22 in my chest, and I'll be back trying to

23 help you here just as quick as I can;

1 okay?

2 I want to start with thanking the
3 Conservation Department, whoever it was
4 that gave a production crew out of
5 Wisconsin my name. They wanted to come
6 down and film a "Dog Hunting in Alabama"
7 issue for the Outdoor Channel. They --
8 we worked it out. They came down the
9 6th, 7th, and 8th of January. We filmed
10 an issue for national television on dog
11 hunting in Alabama. When I get a copy
12 of this, I will send each one of you a
13 copy.

14 What I would like for you to do is
15 look at it. This is the way we run dog
16 hunting at my club and a lot of other
17 clubs. I've heard a lot of things said
18 today that go along with it.

19 What I'd like for you to look at,
20 though, is the fellowship that we have
21 in our hunting club, the number of
22 people we have in our hunting club. We
23 had about 65, 70 people there that day.

1 Also, I want you to look at the kids.
2 Take a look on this tape. It shows how
3 many young'uns we have down there
4 hunting with us. Also, take a look at
5 how many senior citizens, like myself,
6 we've got down there hunting.

7 Gentlemen, you can't throw this
8 away. You just can't do it. It's part
9 of this country, and we need to keep it
10 going. If you're going to -- I've been
11 at this -- I'm 68 years old. I've been
12 around a long time, been hunting since I
13 was a little baby. You got to
14 understand, if you don't get these
15 youngsters between eight and 15, you're
16 going to lose them. I'm telling you.
17 I've seen it over the years. If you
18 don't get them between eight and 15 --
19 because those hormones kick in when they
20 get 15 or 14 or something like that and,
21 buddy, their interest is not hunting;
22 okay?

23 So just pay attention to that. Look

1 at our issues. A trophy hunt for our
2 club is very simple. When I have a
3 granddad, a dad, and a son and daughter
4 there all hunting, that is a trophy
5 hunt. Period. I love it. We try to
6 have as many generations as we can.

7 On this filming of this show, we
8 gave them a great show. On the Saturday
9 that they filmed it, we killed two nice
10 big nine-points and a nice big
11 eight-point. We had cameras mounted on
12 the back of my dog. Showed them jump
13 the nine-point and it showed them going
14 through the woods.

15 MS. JONES: Time.

16 MR. KNIGHT: Yes, ma'am.

17 Showed them going through the
18 woods. And a 13-year-old kid kills the
19 nine-point. It's wonderful. I'll wind
20 it up.

21 Gentlemen, all I ask you to do is
22 look at our tape on this hunt. Think
23 very seriously before you put somebody

1 on a permit system if that may take them
2 out of the thing or do away with any
3 part of their dog hunting. It is
4 important.

5 And can I just say one more thing,
6 Dan?

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very quickly, Don.

8 MR. KNIGHT: Very quickly. Okay.

9 That man that came down here from
10 Wisconsin that was with me, the purpose
11 of this show -- it's going to be
12 Destination Whitetail. Excuse me. And
13 what he was telling me the purpose of
14 these shows are -- he's going all over
15 the country filming shows of various
16 ways to harvest deer. What he's trying
17 to do -- what this whole organization is
18 trying to do is get the hunters to stop
19 fighting among themselves. When we hear
20 things like we heard down here today,
21 we're fighting among ourselves. We are
22 the animal rights activist's best
23 friend. We're doing his job for him.

1 Let's don't do that, people. I don't
2 care if it's spear-chunking. Let's keep
3 the people hunting. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Knight.

5 Okay. The next speaker is Rhett
6 McCollough.

7 MR. McCOLLOUGH: Good morning. I'm speaking
8 on behalf of dog hunting in Coffee
9 County, Elba, Alabama, specifically.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Move up a little closer to
11 the microphone, please.

12 MR. McCOLLOUGH: One thing I'd like to say is
13 that we do all we possibly can to hunt
14 the right way. With the aid of the
15 electronic devices on dogs now, we are a
16 lot better than what we used to be.

17 Now, with that said, it seems that
18 I'm here again today to defend some kind
19 of restrictions put on dog hunting. The
20 main reason for this is because of a
21 hunting club that has already been
22 represented here today and a game
23 warden. And I'm going to read because I

1 can probably do it quicker.

2 It seems that we're here again today
3 to defend a method of hunting that has
4 been constant in Coffee County since the
5 1960s. The main reason, again, is
6 because of the game warden and a few
7 out-of-state hunters that belong to the
8 Hit and Miss Hunting Club. The game
9 official has said many times dating back
10 all the way to 2003 that he would like
11 to see dog hunting done away with in
12 Coffee County. And that's one of the
13 main reasons I'm here today.

14 He has continuously caused
15 controversy among dog hunters along with
16 landowners versus stalk hunters since he
17 was assigned to Coffee County. He
18 cannot be trusted, and I know that from
19 talking to him face to face. He'll tell
20 you one thing and do the opposite. I
21 strongly suggest, along with all the
22 other hunters in Coffee County, that he
23 be removed from Coffee County if he

1 dislikes dog hunting that much.

2 And can I recognize a couple of
3 people?

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll address the
5 Chair. Who would you like to recognize?

6 MR. McCOLLOUGH: The dog hunters from Coffee
7 County. Just have them stand.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you're a dog hunter
9 from Autauga County, please stand up.

10 MR. McCOLLOUGH: Coffee.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Coffee County.

12 Very good. Thank you very much.

13 MR. McCOLLOUGH: Thank y'all. I didn't
14 realize that many were here.

15 The Hit and Miss Hunting Club has
16 been in our county for about 20 years.
17 Awhile ago they reported that they've
18 been there for about 40. That's not
19 true.

20 MS. JONES: Time.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'll sum it up,
22 please, sir.

23 MR. McCOLLOUGH: Okay. We've been there since

1 1960. We've been doing the same thing
2 we do every year just like we do it
3 every year. Except, like I said, we
4 have improved. We do everything we
5 possibly can to abide by the rules and
6 regulations placed upon us. Nobody in
7 Coffee County is for any kind of
8 restrictions placed on dog hunting.

9 The club that was represented here
10 today is surrounded -- I mean,
11 surrounded by dog-hunting clubs. The
12 two people here that spoke today, they
13 knew what they were getting into when
14 they came there. It's just like
15 applying for a job. You know what the
16 job entails when you apply for it. They
17 applied for that hunting club. They
18 knew there was dogs surrounding it when
19 they came there.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. McCollough, thank you
21 very much.

22 Okay. The next speaker will be
23 Shaun Miller.

1 MR. MILLER: Good morning. My name is Shaun
2 Miller. I live in Enterprise, Alabama.
3 I'm here on behalf of dog hunting.

4 First of all, I've been here in this
5 state probably six years. I grew up
6 most of my life -- actually, 11 years
7 I've been working at Fort Rucker. But I
8 grew up most of the majority of my life
9 in California where hunting is severely
10 regulated and severely limited to people
11 who have money. I was never afforded
12 the opportunity to dog hunt until
13 recently. I became a member of White
14 Oak -- or White Flag.

15 I caution the board in regards to
16 restricting dog hunting. It's the first
17 time that I've had an opportunity to
18 hunt with my son. And anybody I know
19 that has small children, to keep their
20 attention while you're hunting without
21 some sort of gaming device in front of
22 them is nearly impossible.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER IN AUDIENCE: Amen.

1 MR. MILLER: When I get --

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Withhold your comments
3 from the gallery. Go ahead, please,
4 sir.

5 MR. MILLER: When my son and I get out of the
6 truck, the excitement is there. He is
7 afforded the opportunity to hear the
8 dogs run through the woods that I was
9 never afforded as a child. And I wish
10 that you guys would keep this for him as
11 much as it is an enjoyment for me.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

14 The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

15 MS. MORROW: Good morning or afternoon -- I
16 don't know which it is now -- Chairman
17 and Members of the Board. I'm Susan
18 Morrow. I'm from Mobile County. I
19 think y'all all know me except maybe the
20 new ones.

21 I want to thank y'all so much for
22 giving us those five dog days on
23 management areas. That meant the world

1 to a lot of little kids and big kids.

2 And, yes, I brought you some more
3 petitions. 923 names. Some of them is
4 kids. But in your petitions there you
5 will see one sheet that has some writing
6 on it, and it tells you the next sheet
7 has some ugly words wrote on it. What
8 happened is the petition got left at
9 Scotch Management Area, and the next
10 stalk hunt, before I could pick it up,
11 somebody that was in line wrote those
12 ugly things on it about dog hunters. So
13 I didn't -- the reason I included it was
14 because I didn't feel like those people
15 that had signed that sheet, their names
16 should be excluded because somebody had
17 done that.

18 But, anyway, I want to thank y'all.
19 And I would like to ask y'all to
20 consider adding another management area
21 for dog hunting that has a lot of land.
22 And, also, if you would consider looking
23 at the Upper Delta, giving us two dog

1 days at the opening of deer season
2 there, because it's usually dry. And as
3 you know, the later it gets, the wetter
4 it gets, so the gates get closed. We
5 got to go in one time this year. So if
6 we could have the last two days or add
7 us two more days at the very beginning,
8 then we could probably get in there
9 because it's dry then.

10 So -- and I want to switch gears on
11 y'all for just a minute. I want to talk
12 about fishing -- saltwater fishing just
13 a minute.

14 This past year -- and I think
15 Dr. Shipp can verify this or he -- I
16 know he's aware of it. During the
17 Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo amberjack
18 season was closed. They had to take the
19 amberjack board out and put in another
20 category, swordfish. And while we were
21 all out there -- you know, if you fish
22 this rodeo, you're going to deep water
23 because you're out there to win prizes.

1 While we was out there fishing, we
2 caught amberjack. That's all we
3 caught. And we was not fishing for
4 amberjack. But that's what we caught.
5 Because they were hungry. And they were
6 huge, 50- and 60-pound amberjack that we
7 caught. And we bring them up. Had to
8 turn them loose, because we could not
9 keep them, and they died. And we did
10 try to revive them.

11 So I would like to ask the board to
12 look at having a special amberjack
13 season for the Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo,
14 just three days, because there's so many
15 fish -- excuse me -- amberjack that was
16 caught. Same thing happened. I'm sure
17 Dr. Shipp can tell you. All the anglers
18 I talked to and I saw out there, that's
19 what it was.

20 MS. JONES: Time.

21 MS. MORROW: Thank y'all so much.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

23 The next speaker is Debra Nicholson.

1 MS. NICHOLSON: I'll pass. It's already been
2 said what I wanted to say.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much,
4 Ms. Nicholson.

5 The next speaker is Wayne Parker.

6 MR. PARKER: Good morning, Commissioner Guy,
7 Mr. Chairman, and Board Members. I'm a
8 member of the Hurricane Creek and
9 Victoria Hunting Club.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone
11 so Tracye doesn't have such a hard time.

12 MR. PARKER: Good morning, men. I am a member
13 of the Hurricane Creek and Victoria
14 Hunting Club. I was born and raised in
15 north Coffee County, hunted and fished
16 all my life there.

17 Dog hunting in the community is a
18 way of life. It is not just deer dogs.
19 It is rabbit dogs, squirrel dogs, coon
20 dogs, and lots of other sporting dogs.
21 I also have bird dogs. I'm here to show
22 my continued support for dog deer
23 hunting.

1 We have five different clubs in
2 north Coffee County, and all these clubs
3 work in conjunction with -- in harmony
4 and respect for each other. I have
5 personally took the time to hunt with
6 four of these clubs. I know what type
7 people they are. I know how they are.
8 I know y'all have been sent a package.
9 None of these people is outlaws, believe
10 me. A lot of them work with me at Fort
11 Rucker and they have security
12 clearances.

13 We follow the rules and regulations
14 and all come together and implement
15 them. All the dogs hunted in the club
16 are required to have tracking collars or
17 GPS collars. If one dog goes on one of
18 the other properties -- we all have a
19 standing commitment. All the clubs
20 there, you're welcome to go in that club
21 and get your dog. It's no problem. We
22 have thousands of acres, many thousands,
23 over 10,000. And that's the way we work

1 in harmony. That's the way we do it.

2 The only exception we have is with
3 Hit and Miss Hunting Club, and they've
4 been a problem since they been there.
5 They're from Florida. They don't
6 recognize it. And they talk about that
7 nobody wants to come up here. No,
8 that's not true. They stop and talk to
9 me regular about turkey hunting and deer
10 hunting. They tell me -- they -- and
11 they say we've got three or four in our
12 club and that's all that's really
13 against the dog hunting, and I believe
14 that. I believe that's what happened.

15 I have two daughters, also, from
16 Zion Chapel High School, which y'all
17 heard Kaelyn speak awhile ago. But I
18 didn't bring them because I was afraid
19 it would be more than y'all could bear.

20 So, you know, I mean, there is
21 passion in it. She is about dog
22 hunting. They were raised in it, and
23 they love their dog hunting. And they

1 could tell you more about dogs than
2 probably you gentlemen know, how they
3 are and what they do.

4 I'm going to share a little story
5 with you. On Sunday, January 22nd,
6 2012, me and my 11-year-old daughter,
7 Savannah, decided to go deer hunting.
8 We stalk hunt and dog hunt. I told her
9 it was getting late so we would not have
10 time to go get in a stand. So we
11 decided to set on the ground. We had
12 been setting there for about 15 to 20
13 minutes when a nice seven-point buck
14 come through. We harvested a deer.

15 On the way home the conversation
16 turned into hunting and fishing and the
17 fun me and her had had and enjoyed on
18 this trip. And I asked her did any of
19 her friends in her grade hunt, and she
20 said no. I was really surprised to hear
21 this answer because she goes to a small
22 school in Coffee County. I asked her
23 why not, and she said because most of

1 her friends' parents do not have the
2 money or land for them to hunt.

3 MS. JONES: Time.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Sum it up, if you would,
5 Mr. Parker.

6 MR. PARKER: Okay.

7 But, anyway, to make this short and
8 stuff, this is what we are forced with
9 today as hunters. We have serious
10 problems with our youth. I ask you as
11 hunters, dog hunters, stand hunters,
12 still hunters, and group hunters to get
13 together and take a child hunting and
14 quit criticizing how other people hunt.
15 Because if we don't do something about
16 it today, I feel we may not none hunt
17 tomorrow.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Parker.

19 Just set the microphone on the counter
20 there, Mr. Parker.

21 The next speaker is Larry Sanders.

22 MR. SANDERS: My name is Larry Sanders. I'm
23 from Pike County, Alabama, and I hunt in

1 Coffee County.

2 The topics I want to talk about
3 today was we have the -- we have like
4 the Wounded Warriors there in Coffee
5 County, the county land. And we have --
6 I have talked to the commissioner in
7 Coffee County, in that area, the
8 representative there, and he said he is
9 not against any kind of dog hunting
10 whatsoever. All he asks is that we
11 maintain our dogs. We do the best of
12 our ability to do that. Like
13 everybody's -- everybody's got tracking
14 units, tracking systems and tracking
15 collars. We're all aware of that.

16 But the conservation officer down
17 there is -- the dog hunter down there
18 feels like he's harassed. We go
19 hunting -- if you see a truck beside a
20 road, it's not because we're hunting.
21 Nine times out of ten we're looking for
22 a dog, trying to catch our dogs up.

23 You know, it's -- I've had people in

1 Pike County come to me saying that
2 they're going to -- you know, the game
3 warden down there said he's going to
4 outlaw the dog hunting. And that's the
5 topic that I wanted to talk on.

6 We had -- we had one incidence. It
7 was my dogs that went through. And the
8 lady at the cabin had caught them, tied
9 them up. When I -- I rode over there to
10 get them and talked to them, and the man
11 said, well, just do your best to keep
12 them contained. You know, we did that.
13 I talked to them.

14 When I got back out, the game warden
15 down there, he was wanting to check
16 trucks. You know, he -- we wasn't even
17 hunting over there. We were just trying
18 to catch their dogs which they had tied
19 up, and I rode in there and got them.

20 But that's what I wanted to talk
21 about today. And I want to thank y'all
22 for letting me speak. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Sanders, who was the

1 representative you spoke with?

2 MR. SANDERS: Kim Evans, Coffee County.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. If the board will
4 note that.

5 Okay. Very good. Thank you, sir.

6 Okay. And our last speaker for the
7 day, Mr. John Ward.

8 MR. WARD: Good morning, Commissioner. How
9 are y'all?

10 We hunt in Fayette County, Alabama.
11 We got 9,500 acres. We got a good club
12 there. We got tracking collars on our
13 dogs. We know where they're at all the
14 time. But we do honor stalk hunters in
15 our club. We all get along as a
16 family. In our youth hunt this year we
17 had 40-something kids down there that
18 enjoyed hunting.

19 If you do away with the dog hunting
20 period, you're going to lose a lot of
21 revenue, license and everything else.
22 Everybody's going to quit hunting. And
23 all these young kids, what are they

1 going to do in between time? Nothing.

2 You take a young kid out there and
3 you put him in a dog stand. He'll enjoy
4 it. You take him out there in the
5 shooting house and they don't want it.
6 They want to hear them dogs run every
7 day.

8 You know, we're all human beings.
9 We all got to get along somehow and
10 someway. And, Commissioner, I hope you
11 don't extend the season. I hope you're
12 keeping it like it was. And I hope that
13 y'all don't do away with dog hunting.
14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ward.

16 All right. That concludes our public
17 hearing.

18 The next order of business is the
19 Advisory Board district reports. I'll call
20 on District 1 first, Dr. Bob Shipp.

21 DR. SHIPP: Thank you. Along the coast there
22 are two principal issues somewhat
23 related, the residual impacts of the oil

1 spill and seafood safety.

2 There are still some spotty
3 occurrence of oil along Alabama beaches,
4 but these seem to be less and less
5 frequent and of minimal consequence.
6 Tourism has essentially returned to
7 normal, and there are numerous
8 promotional initiatives --

9 (Brief interruption.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Someone hand Dr. Shipp
11 their microphone, please.

12 Thank you. Is that working?

13 DR. SHIPP: -- and numerous promotional
14 initiatives to enhance tourism and
15 related businesses along the coast.

16 Seafood safety continues to receive
17 attention. Fishes with lesions have
18 continued to be reported in the media
19 along with inference that these are
20 unsafe to consume. We conducted a
21 series of research cruises last year
22 principally funded by Marine Resources
23 Division and with personnel from that

1 division. These were focused on
2 so-called hot areas where lesioned red
3 snapper had been reported.

4 We collected more than 3,000 snapper
5 and numerous other targeted reef
6 species, and only two showed lesions.
7 These were sent to Auburn and determined
8 to be of normal occurrence.
9 Additionally, the FDA conducted analysis
10 on ten fish and reported no unusual
11 incidences of disease.

12 In summary, our seafood is safe, and
13 my personal belief is a lot of these
14 reports of lesions are just trying to
15 lay the groundwork for lawsuits. But I
16 can personally guarantee you that our
17 seafood is safe.

18 Research and development funds
19 supported by BP are becoming available
20 through a variety of sources, including
21 500 million over ten years in funding
22 from the National Resource Damage
23 Assessment Process. Penalties from

1 fines resulting from violation of the
2 Clean Water Act for restoration funding
3 have yet to be determined.

4 And, now, to address Susan's
5 comments, I have bad news. The Gulf of
6 Mexico Fishery Management Council met
7 this week in Mobile to determine the
8 seasons for red snapper, amberjack, and
9 gray triggerfish. And while the final
10 decisions won't be made until April, it
11 doesn't look good. It looks like all
12 three of those may be closed before
13 rodeo. Unfortunately, that's a federal
14 issue, and we don't have any
15 jurisdiction for that.

16 My personal belief, again, is that
17 the models are about three or four years
18 behind. We have plenty of red snapper.
19 We probably have enough amberjack. But
20 at the April meeting I'm not too
21 optimistic about the outcome.

22 Plans for 2012: The effort to
23 ensure seafood safety and promote its

1 acceptance will continue, including an
2 ongoing initiative aimed at that end.
3 With funding from NOAA and the
4 department, we will continue research
5 cruises to further verify the health of
6 our fishery resources as well as
7 contribute vital data to the National
8 Marine Fishery Service to improve the
9 stock assessments of our key species,
10 especially red snapper, amberjack, and
11 gray triggerfish. Between five and
12 eight cruises are planned during 2012,
13 and all board members and ADCNR
14 personnel are invited to take part in
15 it. And I think the Commissioner and
16 assistant commissioner have taken part
17 in the past.

18 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Shipp, I had a call
20 that they were concerned that the bull
21 redfish fishing in the last couple of
22 years has degenerated on the Dixie Bar.
23 Can you comment on that?

1 DR. SHIPP: That's not my observation. There
2 have been -- there have been a lot of
3 reds taken. Most of the "for hire" guys
4 stop there, and they've had pretty good
5 success. And there have been a lot of
6 big schools on the beach. Some of the
7 spawning aggregation show up in August
8 and September. And I think the red drum
9 or redfish population is in good shape.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thanks. Very good.

11 Mr. Hatley, District 1.

12 MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 I don't know where Don Knight went,
14 but I'd like to commend him and his
15 group. This is the first time,
16 Mr. Chairman, in 15 years since I've
17 been on this board that in my district I
18 have not received one complaint about
19 dog deer hunting. And I think that says
20 a lot for the people who are sitting in
21 this room and, also, for the Dog Hunters
22 Association.

23 Over the past several months I have

1 met with hunting clubs and/or groups
2 from Chilton County all the way to
3 Mobile County and discussed harvest,
4 management, rut, hog hunting, almost
5 every aspect of hunting that we have in
6 the state of Alabama. And I've gotten
7 some outstanding rapport established, I
8 think, and, also, have gotten some good
9 and vital information that can help our
10 department as well as this board.

11 I have one situation I would like to
12 bring to everyone's attention. I got a
13 call down in Monroe County from a group
14 of hunters and said they had a terrible
15 problem. So I was not far from there at
16 the time and went down. They had killed
17 a beautiful nine-point buck. They
18 wanted to have it mounted. Well, when
19 they brought it back up to the clubhouse
20 to skin it, they noticed that in his
21 nasal cavities, in his mouth, and in his
22 throat he was full of worms, worms that
23 were about the size of this pencil and

1 varied in length.

2 Well, I had never seen anything like
3 that. I immediately called Montgomery
4 and talked to staff. And I had never
5 heard of -- and, Gary -- if you would
6 indulge me, Mr. Chairman. I would like
7 for Gary to explain to this group -- and
8 many of you may know, but I did not --
9 what nasal bots are. It frightened the
10 people in that area.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody.

12 MS. MOODY: Yeah. I did not know you had had
13 that incident. But nasal bots are
14 fairly common. But the first time you
15 see them when you cut in a deer,
16 especially if you're fixing to dress one
17 or something, it's not very appetizing.
18 But it's simply fly larvae and then
19 flies -- some species of flies will lay
20 their legs on the nose and nasal area
21 and the deer licks it in and they
22 hatch. And that's where the larvae
23 lives until it pupates and falls out.

1 So it's not harmful to the deer
2 necessarily, not comfortable. The
3 meat's not bad. But it's certainly not
4 pleasant to look at.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody.

6 Mr. Hatley, are you done?

7 MR. HATLEY: I beg your pardon?

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Are you done?

9 MR. HATLEY: I've got a lot more, but I'll
10 quit.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Continue, Mr. Hatley.

12 MR. HATLEY: We had two other problems, which
13 the Commissioner is aware of, not
14 related to hunting, but in our area, in
15 Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. I met
16 with the homeowners association at Ono
17 Island, and they were vitally concerned
18 about the proposed boat ramp. But after
19 talking with staff here at the
20 department, I was able to alleviate some
21 of their concerns. But they want to
22 keep it monitored because they're
23 vitally concerned about that boat ramp.

1 And the other area was Mr. Egbert
2 and I had discussed the problems at the
3 state pier, and I assured him that we
4 were working on that problem, which we
5 have discussed earlier in the meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

7 COMMISSIONER GUY: Mr. Hatley agreed to take
8 care of all the boat ramp issues down
9 there.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's good. Let that be
11 duly noted in the minutes.

12 MR. HATLEY: I would like my salary increased
13 too.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: District 2, Mr. Hartzog.
15 We know you have been busy.
16 Mr. Hartzog.

17 MR. HARTZOG: Well, if you look at the report,
18 the first of the issues that I had was
19 the problem of Coffee County and Elmore
20 County, and I think we've been well
21 versed on those.

22 A couple of good things that have
23 been very popular in my district is the

1 opening of the Barbour County Management
2 Area for extended hunting. It has been
3 very, very popular. A lot of attendance
4 and a lot of success there. If you talk
5 to -- I had Don Abercrombie, who runs
6 the restaurant in Clayton, Alabama,
7 saying that, you know, it was a good
8 economic push. And, you know, the main
9 thing is when you open up these
10 management areas only on certain
11 weekends, when a guy works shift work
12 and can't get off that weekend, but by
13 extending it, it has been very, very
14 popular.

15 The other thing that still comes
16 back to me every time I talk to a deer
17 hunter is the popularity of Barbour
18 County having the antler restriction.
19 The gentleman that was talking about the
20 button bucks and all, Barbour County,
21 with having the antler restriction, is a
22 plus on that.

23 And the last thing on my report is,

1 if you remember, I think about two
2 meetings ago Joe Young reported the --
3 what he perceived as problems with
4 lesions in the bass population in Lake
5 Eufaula. Both Georgia and Alabama have
6 been working on doing some studies.
7 And, in fact, they had an open seminar
8 at the Chamber of Commerce there in
9 Eufaula about -- I think about a month
10 and a half ago. Had about 150 people
11 attend. Both the Georgia biologists as
12 well as the Alabama biologists reported
13 on some of the things they're looking at
14 to improve the fisheries there on
15 Eufaula. So thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

17 District 3, Grant Lynch, is not
18 present today.

19 District 4, Austin Ainsworth.

20 MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you, Commissioner.

21 I've had a lot of positive reports
22 on the three-buck limit. People seem to
23 be taking more mature, bigger -- bigger

1 deer. And the only negative I've seen,
2 that people want to see a way -- a
3 better way to enforce it. And I think
4 that's something we might need to look
5 in to.

6 And on the fishing side of things,
7 in October on Lake Guntersville, Paul
8 Elias is a professional fisherman. He
9 won the FLW Tour with a innovative new
10 lure called the Alabama rig. And it's
11 been great for the local tackle stores.
12 They've been applauding it. They're
13 selling them off the shelves as quick as
14 they get them. And I just want to
15 applaud the man that invented that.
16 It's great to see a fishing lure that
17 gets people excited about fishing and
18 get them out on the lake. And thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Ainsworth.

21 District 5. Mr. Jones, I understand
22 you're going to speak for Dr. Strickland
23 today. Y'all have combined. Or,

1 Dr. Strickland, you're going to speak
2 also?

3 DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I've got a couple of
4 things to talk about.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Mr. Jones
6 first.

7 MR. JONES: Thank you. Appreciate that.

8 First of all, I apologize for my
9 appearance today with my discoloration
10 of my face. There are two primary
11 theories going around about exactly what
12 happened. Both theories involves a
13 piece of wood. One theory involves a
14 four-wheeler. The other involves my
15 wife. So I'll leave it to
16 Dr. Strickland when he gets his turn to
17 answer exactly what happened.

18 DR. STRICKLAND: He had a brow lift.

19 MR. JONES: Really, Mr. Sapp figured it out.
20 He quit talking and I didn't, so -- a
21 moment ago.

22 But in District 5 we've had a good
23 year. It's been a less than normal year

1 from an activities standpoint. So I
2 think things are going very positive
3 there.

4 We have -- in Huntsville, Alabama,
5 we have the 30,000-acre federally-owned
6 Redstone Arsenal. Redstone Arsenal,
7 being federally owned, consent --
8 basically they have to follow the
9 Alabama template for rules, but they can
10 basically be more restrictive on what
11 their hunting rules are.

12 We had some user groups out there
13 that had had some problems and asked me
14 to -- and I've helped field some calls
15 and worked with District 1 Department of
16 Conservation officers to help resolve
17 the issue. And it was easily resolved
18 once the misunderstandings were done.

19 Duck hunting throughout the region
20 was good but not great as expected or as
21 hoped it would have been. The eastern
22 part of the state faired the best.

23 Gadwalls were in abundance.

1 Unfortunately, mallards never seemed to
2 get here this particular year.

3 Spoke with several individuals for
4 different perspectives. Spoke with
5 people on February -- extending deer
6 season into February. Spoke to people
7 on the feeding and baiting issue, a
8 tagging system as well.

9 Spoke with enforcement officers.
10 Generally arrests were down. And
11 primarily the arrests were for hunting
12 over bait or for hunting without
13 permission. I did have the officers --
14 and several officers actually said the
15 higher fines on the hunting without
16 permission seemed to help greatly. So
17 that has gone into effect.

18 And, unfortunately, we did have a
19 hunting-related fatality in Jackson
20 County this year. So that was -- we
21 were saddened by that.

22 Still a lot of comments, people --
23 positive comments for Archery in the

1 Schools. And that's a great program.
2 You guys do a great job of running that,
3 and that's introducing a lot of kids to
4 the hunting sports.

5 But that's my report, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

7 Dr. Strickland.

8 DR. STRICKLAND: Yeah. I'll just -- Ray, that
9 was an excellent report, very concise
10 and to the point. And I'm not going to,
11 you know, basically hash out some of the
12 points that you brought out. But there
13 are a couple of things that I would just
14 like to comment on.

15 One is our deer season. Like most
16 of the state of Alabama, you know, we
17 had an unusually warm season, abundant
18 acorn crop, and the rut just wasn't
19 as -- I'm not going to say maybe as
20 active, but most of the rutting activity
21 ended up taking place at night. So,
22 therefore, it looks as though the buck
23 harvest rate in Congressional District 5

1 was not as high as it has been in
2 previous years.

3 But the deer that were taken were
4 excellent deer. I got a chance to stop
5 by and see several of the deer that were
6 taken. You know, in Alabama we really
7 have excellent deer. We're in really,
8 really good shape. And one of the
9 reasons we're in such good shape is just
10 there's so much feed and mast crop that
11 was available.

12 Myself, I actually harvested a nice
13 buck in early January with my bow and
14 arrow, one of the largest bucks I've
15 seen. It was a nine-pointer, probably
16 132 inches. One of the best bucks that
17 I've taken in Alabama. So I was pretty
18 proud of that.

19 One of the things, too, I would just
20 like to emphasize is that -- and Rusty
21 touched on that. You know, our
22 Conservation Department has really done
23 an outstanding job in our part of the

1 state. You know, I can -- I can
2 remember four or five years ago we
3 talked about four to 500 citations that
4 were issued for game violations. That
5 has been cut down to less than 200, and
6 the night hunting has gone away. And,
7 Gary, that's really a testimonial to the
8 excellent field work that your staff has
9 done in that part of the state. They've
10 done really an outstanding job. And
11 that just happens to be the home of Joe
12 Lindsey. Joe is -- he's -- you know,
13 all the guys have really done an
14 outstanding job.

15 I have gotten several reports from
16 sportsmen in our area. There's still a
17 lot of talk about a tag system. And I
18 don't know where we are with the tag
19 system. But, you know, even a sportsman
20 and even some of the conservation
21 officers feel that that's what it will
22 take to really, you know, get the most
23 benefit out of our buck harvest limit.

1 Also, supplement feeding. I've had
2 a lot of discussion with hunters around
3 the supplement feeding. There are a lot
4 of hunters out there that are really
5 interested in seeing that implemented,
6 some that weren't. But there's probably
7 more of an interest for supplement
8 feeding.

9 And, again, I've had several hunters
10 to call, particularly small game
11 hunters, about the extension of the deer
12 season. And, you know, we have a lot of
13 small game hunters, rabbit hunters and
14 squirrel hunters, in that part, and they
15 really do not want to lose the ability
16 to hunt small game in the month of
17 February. And as we well know -- and it
18 was emphasized earlier -- no one is
19 going to let the squirrel and the rabbit
20 hunters into the field until after the
21 deer season closes.

22 But that's -- Mr. Chairman, that's
23 pretty much -- it's been overall pretty

1 quiet. And we've had, you know, a
2 pretty successful hunting season in the
3 last -- 2011-2012.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

5 The next district, District 6.

6 Mr. Joey Dobbs.

7 MR. DOBBS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 In the 6th District, we're small, so
9 I end up with a large population that
10 operates and hunts and travels to
11 different parts of the state. So I get
12 hit with some of the things that our
13 other members have talked about.

14 We received a lot of calls about the
15 success of the three-buck rule and the
16 antler restrictions from many
17 individuals and hunting clubs. They --
18 they killed larger and better deer. A
19 lot of -- a lot of clubs and people
20 experienced an earlier, albeit milder,
21 rut. As Dr. Strickland said, it
22 probably was at night. But mid December
23 was when -- for about two weeks that --

1 the reports that I've gotten. More --
2 numerous bucks because of the programs
3 have gotten a lot of outdoors men
4 excited about the prospects of the
5 quality deer management programs that
6 the state -- that our biologists and the
7 staff is doing a great job with.

8 A lot of the residents of our
9 district enjoy saltwater angling. And
10 my hopes were dashed a few minutes ago,
11 but they were counting on a longer
12 season, more liberal creel limits for
13 red snapper and amberjack. But it
14 sounds like from Dr. Shipp that that's
15 not going to be the case. And I'll
16 carry that news home.

17 They're concerned always about the
18 seafood industry as a result of the oil
19 spill, and I've advised them to
20 absolutely buy Alabama, that everything
21 is safe, just as Dr. Shipp has stated.

22 I have received some complaints from
23 6th District residents that hunt in

1 different parts of the state about dog
2 hunting, and most of that was from dog
3 hunting that was done once the dog
4 season was concluded. And I've offered
5 those folks that just common sense and
6 sound judgment prevail and report these
7 incidents to your local authorities and
8 continue to do that.

9 Also, I've had some concerns from
10 some members of the district that --
11 about the boats -- derelict boats in and
12 around the coastal waters of Alabama.
13 And I've let them know that the
14 Department of Conservation and State
15 Lands have a program and they're
16 pursuing legal remedies to help get
17 these boats removed that are nuisances
18 and hazards to navigation.

19 As Dr. Strickland said, there's a
20 lot of debate about supplemental feeding
21 and extending the deer season. One of
22 the suggestions -- or several
23 suggestions that I have received would

1 be to allow the supplemental feeding,
2 license it and charge a fee for the
3 privilege or increase the fines for the
4 violations. I've referred all these
5 folks on to the two reports that are on
6 line so that they can review those and
7 gain further information.

8 As well, an ask for carcass tags for
9 deer and turkey that could be purchased
10 for a nominal fee to allow the
11 biologists to collect valuable
12 information as to the population of two
13 of the most popular and important game
14 species in our state. The issue fee or
15 research fee or whatever Gary and staff
16 decide or work this out to be would
17 go -- would be specific to this
18 research. And we're going to need some
19 help to find a palatable system that's
20 user friendly that everybody can take
21 advantage of and be a part of.

22 But everybody I've talked to is
23 thrilled with the way that things are

1 going and the job that our Department of
2 Conservation and Natural Resources
3 Marine Resources Division is doing, and
4 I'm very proud of it too.

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.

7 District 7 is currently open. There
8 were two very lengthy reports. After a
9 long conversation with the Commissioner
10 and because of the current dog
11 hunting/landowner problems that have
12 been talked about in Greene County and
13 the conversation with Commissioner Guy,
14 it has been decided that those reports
15 on District 7 will not be read today and
16 they will be turned over to the new
17 District 7 member so that he may revisit
18 those issues and present them at the
19 proper time.

20 So that concludes the district
21 reports.

22 The next order of business is new
23 business. I'll start with Wildlife and

1 Freshwater Fisheries.

2 Mr. Harders.

3 MR. HARDERS: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, in
4 your packet you have the Wildlife and
5 Freshwater Fisheries Division
6 recommendations for seasons and bag
7 limits of the 2012-2013 season. Changes
8 are highlighted in yellow. And you
9 should have some updated sheets to put
10 in your packet. Date changes to the
11 calendar are not highlighted.

12 The proposed changes include dove
13 season dates. Those will be -- our
14 recommendation was to change them,
15 depending on the zone, either earlier or
16 later. Remove the bag limit on raccoon
17 on private owned and leased lands.
18 Extend the trapping season.

19 Change the legal arms for selected
20 small game. Right now the way it reads
21 is .22 caliber, and this would allow
22 rimfire, which is -- let you use a
23 popular .17 caliber rimfire.

1 Reduce the creel limit on smallmouth
2 bass. Reduce the creel limit on white
3 bass, yellow bass, saltwater striped,
4 and hybrids. We clarified the releasing
5 of caught fish by tournament sponsors.

6 The inclusion of Town Creek and size
7 limit in Gunterville Reservoir.

8 Amended the saltwater striped bass creel
9 and fishing methods on Lake Martin and
10 Lewis Smith Reservoirs.

11 Changed the creel limit on
12 smallmouth bass on Pickwick, Wheeler,
13 and Wilson Reservoirs. Changed the
14 saltwater striped bass creel limit on
15 Thurlow, Yates, and Inland Reservoir.
16 And clarified shoal bass restriction for
17 the Chattahoochee River.

18 If you have any question about
19 those, I'd be glad to answer them now.

20 One other thing we have in your
21 packet is our recommendation for the
22 CPI, consumer price index, increase for
23 license prices. As you know, when the

1 legislature passed the last license
2 increase, there's a provision that
3 allows us to look at the consumer price
4 index every year and then make a
5 recommendation based on that increase,
6 if there is one, for license price
7 increases.

8 After looking at the CPI change this
9 year, the recommendation is roughly a
10 3.53 percent increase in licenses. And
11 what that means is, for example, the
12 resident all game hunting license would
13 go up 80 cents, the annual freshwater
14 fishing license would go up 35 cents.

15 But the process for this is for us
16 to recommend it through the
17 Commissioner. With his approval, we
18 provide it to board members. You
19 approve that at the next meeting. Then
20 we move it on to the legislative review
21 committee. If they're in favor of this,
22 it will go in effect this next license
23 year. If you remember, last year was

1 the first time we had a consumer price
2 index, and the license increased a few
3 pennies.

4 If you have any questions concerning
5 that, I'd be happy to answer them.

6 That's basically the new business unless
7 someone has questions.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We're going to revisit old
9 business. I accidentally went to new
10 instead of old. So we will revisit old
11 in a minute, but we're going to stay at
12 new right now.

13 MR. HARDERS: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. The rest of
15 game and fish. I believe there's one
16 more in there, Commissioner. Wasn't
17 there some other new business?

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: Marine Resources.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Marine Resources.
20 Chris.

21 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Thank you. In your packets
22 there were the regulations that we had
23 proposed. I'll just cover some of the

1 highlights on those and answer any
2 questions that you have.

3 On the shrimping regulation, we
4 wanted to add a provision to allow
5 persons to take up to five gallons of
6 shrimp from open waters when using a
7 cast net. Currently there's no
8 provision for them to take shrimp with a
9 cast net -- or no limits. So this would
10 allow them to do that up to five
11 gallons. To better define the closure
12 line in the Blakely River Channel. To
13 remove the closed area within one-half
14 mile of the shoreline in Mobile Bay from
15 Mayday Pier to Point Clear. To better
16 define the closure line in Perdido
17 Pass. And to change the maximum size of
18 the trawl allowed for bait shrimping to
19 maintain consistency with the Live Bait
20 legislation that was passed in the last
21 session. This just catches the
22 regulation up with the legislation that
23 was passed.

1 In the oystering regulation, we want
2 to better define the prohibition on
3 taking or transporting oysters between
4 sunset and sunrise and taking oysters at
5 night. To better define what the oyster
6 harvesters must do if they take the
7 oysters to a shop other than the one
8 that they declared to us that they were
9 going to sell the oysters through our
10 management station. And to remove the
11 designation of harvest areas in the
12 regulation. We define the harvest areas
13 by opening and closing orders. So we
14 didn't really need it in the
15 regulation.

16 On the use of nets and harvest of
17 mullet, there's no substantial changes
18 to this regulation. But as you all
19 know, we have made substantial changes
20 to this regulation over the last several
21 years, and in the process of doing that,
22 some of the numbering had gotten off in
23 the regulation. And so this is really

1 just to correct some grammatical and
2 typographical errors in the regulation.

3 The one thing that we did do in
4 there, to better define the closure line
5 at Theodore Industrial Canal. It
6 doesn't change the line at all. We just
7 put a GPS coordinate there to go along
8 with the physical description to make
9 sure it was plain to the public and the
10 fishermen.

11 The oyster season and sack limit
12 regulation, we want to change the
13 harvest times to exclude harvest on
14 Saturdays during October, November, and
15 December, and to reduce the limit of
16 oysters from 16 sacks per boat per day
17 to 12 sacks per boat per day. And those
18 were both requests from the industry and
19 from the processors. We have a finite
20 number of oysters that are available for
21 harvest, and they would rather have more
22 days that the oysters could be harvested
23 and sold through the processing shops to

1 continue to have that product on the
2 market. That was a request from the
3 industry.

4 And the saltwater fish creel, bag,
5 and possession limit. We are proposing
6 to add a 12-inch fork length limit on
7 sheepshead and a recreational creel
8 limit of 10 inches. To increase the
9 creel limit for red grouper to four fish
10 to be consistent with the federal
11 regulations. That's an increase from
12 two to four fish. And to add the
13 sandbar shark as a prohibited species to
14 be consistent with federal regulations
15 unless the fisherman has a federal
16 research permit for sandbar sharks.

17 On the crab regulation, you have an
18 updated proposed crab regulation that
19 was provided to you today. After
20 meeting with the commercial fishermen,
21 the crabbers and some of the
22 organizations, they had some concerns
23 about some things that we proposed. And

1 so we have agreed to work with them over
2 the next year to try and address their
3 concerns with our proposed regulations
4 and see if we can accomplish the same
5 thing without having additional
6 regulations on the crabbers.

7 But the things that we still
8 included in the revoked -- in the
9 revised proposed regulation is to close
10 Bill's Bayou to the use of crab traps to
11 protect threatened diamondback
12 terrapins. To better define the closure
13 line at the Blakely River Channel. And
14 to better define the required marking of
15 crab traps and crab harvest vessels.
16 Most of those are just clarifications so
17 that it's clear for the public and for
18 the fishermen.

19 And then in the open season/area for
20 the taking of live saltwater bait, Point
21 Clear area, the Coast Guard came in and
22 renumbered the channel that goes into
23 the Grand Hotel thereby making our

1 regulation obsolete. So we just --
2 we're just changing the regulation to
3 better define the area with the new
4 waterway markers that are there.
5 There's no real substantial change. It
6 just makes -- makes it clear where the
7 closure line is.

8 And I'll be glad to answer any
9 questions. Or if you read that and have
10 any questions over the next month, feel
11 free to -- thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Chris. Are
13 there any questions from the board?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business?

16 Dr. Shipp.

17 DR. SHIPP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
18 going to introduce a motion at the next
19 meeting, but I want to lay it out at
20 this meeting so there can be
21 discussion.

22 The one -- the first motion is to
23 have Carolina pompano be declared a

1 gamefish. I was glad to hear about the
2 increase in recreational licenses. This
3 will certainly help that if we make this
4 a gamefish.

5 This is the one species that is a
6 prime species that can be caught in the
7 surf. It's one of the main targets for
8 our tourist industry. It's less than
9 one-half of one percent of the
10 commercial harvest. And it's one of the
11 areas where the greatest amount of
12 friction between the gillnet industry
13 and the tourist industry has occurred.
14 Since it's such a small component of the
15 commercial harvest, this would eliminate
16 a lot of that friction. So I plan to
17 introduce that motion at the next
18 meeting.

19 The other motion is to increase the
20 minimum legal size of triple tail, which
21 is commonly known as black fish, to be
22 increased from 16 inches total length to
23 18 inches total length. This species

1 recently has become very popular, and by
2 increasing it to 18 inches, we will
3 guarantee that they will at least
4 survive through one spawning season.

5 So those are the two motions I plan
6 to introduce at the next meeting.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Dr. Shipp. Any
8 other new business?

9 Mr. Hartzog.

10 MR. HARTZOG: Two or three different things.

11 I want to remind everybody that
12 Forever Wild comes up for a vote in
13 November on the general ballot,
14 something that we really need to really,
15 really support because of the importance
16 of providing additional hunting lands
17 for our people. So be sure to do that.

18 The second thing, I'd like -- Gary,
19 if you will look at the possibility of
20 the Upper Delta, trying to add
21 additional days for the dog hunters
22 during the dry season. That Upper Delta
23 is -- and I don't know whether that

1 would be presented at the next meeting.

2 I'll probably be unpopular leaving
3 here, but I'm going to probably propose
4 at the next meeting that upper Coffee
5 County be put on a permit system and
6 that -- I will get with enforcement and
7 work out -- I will probably recommend
8 that we put part of Elmore County on a
9 permit system.

10 I know we've heard a lot of
11 arguments about the pros and cons of dog
12 hunting. I love dog hunting. But the
13 problem is, is when you've got a problem
14 and you know you've got a problem. And
15 I think Don Knight will testify and
16 several others. When I was getting so
17 many complaints, I called them and I
18 said get with those clubs and ask them
19 to please behave, and yet it seemed like
20 the notch was turned up. I got twice as
21 many complaints.

22 And I know the comments have been
23 here it's just with Hit and Miss Hunting

1 Club. But, I mean, I've gotten -- I've
2 got a letter right here that I received
3 yesterday that's not Hit and Miss. I
4 mean, I've had a dozen phone calls this
5 last week that was not Hit and Miss.
6 So, I mean, we've got a problem.

7 And I know we had a trespass issue,
8 and it was said, well, the guy's got a
9 bad knee. Well, when you know you got a
10 problem with a club, you don't go ahead
11 and go through an open gate when you
12 know you've got a problem with that club
13 and just ignore that that's
14 trespassing.

15 So it -- I asked the question does
16 the permit system work. And we can ask
17 some gentlemen here from Geneva County
18 if the permit system works. It works.
19 And we're not trying to restrict you
20 from hunting, but we're just trying to
21 make you better behaved and try to
22 adhere to the rules. And that's the
23 only thing we ask.

1 And so at the next meeting those two
2 areas I will probably propose that those
3 areas be put under a permit system.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other new business?

5 Dr. Strickland.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would
7 like to introduce a motion for approval
8 of all Department of Conservation and
9 Natural Resource regulations since the
10 last approval.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. This is a
12 housekeeping regulation that doesn't
13 apply to the prior minutes.

14 Dr. Strickland, if you could read
15 the motion one more time.

16 DR. STRICKLAND: A motion for approval of all
17 Department of Conservation and Natural
18 Resource regulations since the last
19 approval.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Is there a second?

21 MR. JONES: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I have a second.

23 Any discussion?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, read it
3 one more time, please, sir.

4 DR. STRICKLAND: A motion for approval of all
5 Department of Conservation and Natural
6 Resource regulations since the last
7 approval.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All those in favor raise
9 your hand.

10 (All board members raise hand.)

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All opposed?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Let the record show
14 unanimous.

15 Any other new business?

16 Mr. Jones.

17 MR. JONES: Thank you. Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 Youth hunting in our state is
20 wonderful, and our state several years
21 ago adopted -- very wisely adopted
22 special youth hunting days for various
23 different species that we hunt. I

1 really think, though, that we need to
2 recognize, in addition to our youth,
3 another fast-growing segment of our
4 hunting population, and that is you
5 ladies. I want to work over the next --
6 between now and the next meeting to work
7 with the department and with the
8 Commissioner to look at the possibility
9 of adding a special day or special days
10 for you ladies out there to help -- you
11 know, you guys have your own -- you have
12 your own camouflage now. So that's a
13 neat thing with the Women and Outdoors
14 programs that are going on. And there
15 is nowhere that I know of in the United
16 States where women have a special date
17 like this, and I think Alabama needs to
18 be in the lead, not following, on that
19 issue.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other new
21 business?

22 (No response.)

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. With that, we'll go

1 back to old business. I will start with
2 the items that we show open from the
3 last meeting.

4 At the last meeting we talked about
5 fish with sores. Someone was going to
6 inspect the catches from the FLW
7 tournaments. Stan or David Hayden, do
8 y'all have any comments on that?

9 MR. COOK: We did have our district biologist
10 look into that. It turned out to be --
11 I hate to say routine or average type of
12 report, but it -- when you have a fish
13 population that is going through some
14 sort of cyclic event where you have
15 overcrowdedness occurring, it puts more
16 stress on the population. Therefore,
17 those common illnesses tend to show up
18 more prevalent in the population. And
19 that's what that was. But by
20 addressing -- trying to address the
21 population issue, we'll also address the
22 disease or parasite issue that we're
23 receiving.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Excellent. Very good.

2 Thank you, Mr. Cook.

3 The second was the Bankhead Forest
4 WMA, a problem with hogs, restrictive
5 rules, regulations for preventing
6 resolution. Mr. Moody was planning to
7 meet with the new forest supervisor
8 arriving June 2011 to get ready to
9 discuss rules and regs. Any follow-up,
10 Mr. Moody?

11 MR. MOODY: We did meet with the forest
12 supervisor, and we have met with him
13 several times since. We've had multiple
14 conversations about this.

15 The issue was about getting access
16 with traps into the wilderness area.
17 It's not about the areas outside of the
18 wilderness area. It's the areas within
19 the wilderness area. And they're pretty
20 adamant that their wildnerwildernesses
21 not allow any kind of mechanized device
22 period within these areas, fire or
23 otherwise. It's all -- you go in --

1 walk in by hand. You do it by hand.
2 And we have talked. And we're not
3 through talking. And we will continue
4 to do so. But there are some law issues
5 in addition to what regulatory issues
6 there are. So there is nothing really
7 changed, but we do continue to discuss
8 the issue with them.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

10 Mr. Dobbs.

11 MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman.

12 Mr. Moody, did you ever get ahold of
13 the congressional representatives for
14 those districts and ask them to become
15 involved to help that gentleman out who
16 was so adamant about the destruction of
17 the floor fauna, the trails and
18 everything?

19 MR. MOODY: No, we have not. We've been
20 working strictly with Forest Service
21 personnel.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next issue open was a
23 property line/safety issue that has been

1 discussed over the last two meetings.
2 Commissioner Guy, I think you have some
3 follow-up.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 Yeah. We brought this up last year. I
6 know I've had about 20 phone calls about
7 hunters hunting on someone else's
8 property line.

9 I don't know about everybody else.
10 One of the things I want to do by
11 talking about this a little more is get
12 some feedback on this particular issue.
13 In my mind it's a safety issue.

14 This year we've had quite a few
15 people who were shot. That's not
16 necessarily just a property line issue.
17 That is just a hunter safety issue that
18 we all need to be more aware of what
19 we're doing. But, certainly, when there
20 are people hunting on property lines,
21 the property owners on the other side,
22 for instance, are very intimidated by
23 the ability to walk around on their

1 property, whether they have hunter
2 orange on or not.

3 I think we need to look at this
4 issue. If we save one life, it's worth
5 it. And we all need to be cognizant
6 about the fact of whether we need to be
7 hunting on a property line.

8 In that regard, I think we need to
9 consider a minimum yardage off a
10 property line unless -- which is an
11 exception that I think anybody could
12 live with -- you have permission from
13 the adjoining landowner or lessee. If
14 that adjoining landowner or lessee has
15 no problem with you having a hunting
16 stand within a particular distance -- I
17 think the distance is something we need
18 to look at, but probably as much as 50
19 yards -- then I think that doesn't cause
20 a problem. On the other hand, you know,
21 if that landowner has a problem, you
22 know, then we probably need to have a
23 regulation that prevents you from doing

1 that.

2 I think the issue here is hunter
3 safety, and that's all it's about. And
4 we need to be particularly aware about
5 our children -- as not only ourselves,
6 but our children, too, who might be
7 within an area that's very close to a
8 property line.

9 So that goes back to a couple of
10 different things, wearing hunter orange
11 and making sure you know what you're
12 shooting at. But that's my kind of
13 report on that.

14 Mr. Chairman, I think what we'll do
15 is consider getting feedback from
16 everyone on that and then possibly have
17 a proposal to be in the form of a motion
18 if the feedback is positive, or we can
19 discuss it at the next meeting with a
20 motion.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. And
22 I think the board -- to be aware, I
23 believe there's already two instances of

1 something sort of like this. There is a
2 limit from a house.

3 It's a hundred yards, is that
4 correct, from a residence?

5 There is no shooting over property
6 lines; isn't that correct?

7 There's something about property
8 lines, I think. And then there's
9 another issue of 50 yards off a public
10 road; is that correct?

11 So these kind of issues are in
12 effect already.

13 Mr. Hartzog.

14 MR. HARTZOG: Mr. Chairman, when you and I
15 were talking the other day and that
16 particular subject came up, we also --
17 I've had several instances of major
18 injuries from safety belts not being
19 used in tree stands. So I would really
20 love to see us look at adding some type
21 of regulation to help protect the people
22 from --

23 (Brief interruption.)

1 MR. HARTZOG: So we would like to include
2 that, please, Gunter.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you could get that
4 information to the Commissioner.

5 Mr. Hatley.

6 MR. HATLEY: If these things can be worked out
7 before our next meeting, all those
8 objections and proponents, including a
9 motion, I certainly will be prepared to
10 present that in the form of a motion at
11 our next meeting.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great.

13 Thank you, Mr. Hatley.

14 Okay. There was one other old
15 business item, and I don't know if
16 anything has been done or hasn't been
17 done, Mr. Hayden, on setting dog deer
18 days on WMAs for different days not yet
19 addressed. Anything to follow up on
20 that, Mr. Hayden?

21 MR. HAYDEN: Well, as you know, we did add
22 additional days to the areas that we had
23 dog hunting on last year. We'll take a

1 look at the request we had today and see
2 if we might be able to do anything
3 else.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. It
5 sounded like they were very well pleased
6 with what you did last year.

7 MR. HAYDEN: Yes. We had a number of "thank
8 yous" for adding days.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good.

10 Okay. Any other old business at
11 this time?

12 Mr. Dobbs.

13 MR. DOBBS: I was just going to add that
14 Ms. Morrow asked for an additional --
15 for additional days on the wildlife
16 management area, but she didn't define
17 that management area or I didn't hear
18 it.

19 She said the Upper Delta, but she
20 said another one as well. Did I
21 misunderstand?

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Morrow.

23 MS. MORROW: No, sir. I said to look at

1 opening another management area up for
2 dog hunting.

3 MR. DOBBS: Right. As well as the Upper
4 Delta?

5 MS. MORROW: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Any other old
7 business from the board?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
10 business is the date and location of the
11 next Advisory Board meeting. The date
12 will be March 10th, 2012, and the
13 location will be here again in
14 Montgomery, Alabama.

15 Being there is no further business,
16 this meeting stands adjourned.

17 (Meeting adjourned at
18 approximately 12:40 p.m.)

19 * * * * *

20 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

21 * * * * *

22 STATE OF ALABAMA:

23 MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

